



# THE INDEPENDENT

No 8,842

MONDAY 7 JULY 1997

WEATHER: Mostly dry

(R 45P) 40p

MEDIA+

**THE WOMAN WHO  
TERMINATES AUTHOR'S**  
WITH 12 PAGES OF APPOINTMENTS

BACK PAGE

**SPACE JAM  
UNLOCKED  
ON MARS**

20-PAGE SPORT PULL-OUT

**SAMPRA IS  
KING OF THE  
CENTRE COURT**

## Marchers trample peace hopes

David McKittrick and Michael Streeter

The already slender chances of an early IRA ceasefire appear to have been dealt a further blow yesterday as the controversial Drumcree Orange march through a Catholic area of Portadown.

Although the scale of actual violence in initial response to the move was towards the lower end of what had been anticipated, the Government's relations with Irish nationalists have been seriously damaged by the episode.

While the exact extent and duration of the damage may take some time to emerge, it is already clear that the episode has added a further layer of mistrust to the nationalist and re-



Tight security: Armed police and troops flank Orangemen as they march through the nationalist Garvaghy Road area of Drumcree yesterday.

Photograph: Peter Macdonald

The authorities appear to have concluded that nationalist resentment would be easier to contain than loyalist anger.

Although a decision on whether or not to allow the march to take place was expected to be made on Saturday, no announcement was made until early yesterday, after the security force operation was in place. Troops were sent to Drumcree church, where Orangemen hold their service, with barbed wire and other equipment in what appears to have been a bid to mislead Catholic residents into believing the march would be halted.

Troops and police then used a combination of the element of surprise, the cover of darkness and sheer force of numbers to hem in residents. The operation remained in place from 3am until around 2pm, after the silent march of some 1,200 Orangemen had passed along the road.

In the evening, shots were fired at police on the Ormeau Road in Belfast, scene of next weekend's contentious march, while vehicles were hijacked and other disturbances started in the north and west of the city and in the towns of Armagh, Newry and Newtownbutler. Police warned motorists to stay away from these areas.

A republican protest rally in west Belfast was attended by some 5,000 people.

The Orange Order, by contrast, commended Ms Mowlem and congratulated its members on their restraint. Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble, welcoming the outcome, said: "That was originally a Protestant area. The Protestants have been driven out of it and the Orange Order not going down there is equivalent to saying 'yes we have been driven out'. Their attitude is they are not going to be driven out of what is part of their own town."

In an incident in Armagh, a hospital worker was dragged from his car and attacked by a gang of masked men who had spotted an accordion on the back seat. It is reported that they forced him into a nearby park and ordered him to play the instrument while they threw stones at him.

Inside

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Heroes' welcome  
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The day that the  
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publican attitude towards the Labour government.

The recently elected British leader, Bertie Ahern, described it as a sad day for nationalists, while Martin McGuinness, of Sinn Féin, declared himself "absolutely disgusted".

While in the short term the Government has averted another Drumcree stand-off which could have pitted its entire authority against extreme loyalists, the corollary is that there may well be a price to pay in terms of the postponement of any new IRA cessation.

The operation mounted to escort 1,200 Portadown Orangemen along the contentious Garvaghy Road route entailed one of the largest security operations ever witnessed. More than a hundred armoured vehicles and up to 2,000 troops and police were deployed to sat-

urate Catholic housing estates to safeguard the Orangemen's passage.

By early evening there had been a number of disturbances in republican districts across the province in which several dozen people were hurt, including police officers. In one incident, not far from Portadown, nine men,

some of them armed, seized a train and set it alight, destroying all four carriages.

More tense times lie ahead in the marching season which reaches its peak with next Saturday's 12 July parades. Trouble could easily erupt in Londonderry and at Belfast's Ormeau Road, which have both

been the scenes of confrontations in the past.

Although Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, played a leading role in the decision-making process on the march, the final say was said to have been left with RUC Chief Constable Ronnie Flanagan.

Mr Flanagan said: "The choice I was left with was a simple, stark choice in terms of balancing two evils. Each evil threatened to bring about serious violence. I'm talking about loss of life. I apologise to the people of Garvaghy Road for the gross inconvenience this has caused and assure them that

the level of inconvenience will be for as short a period as possible."

The Chief Constable said he had to balance the threat of violence from both loyalist and republican elements, which extended to the possibility of loss of life. He said it had been clear that there had been elements on both sides who were

beaten on exploiting the issue to wreak serious violence.

Ms Mowlem, in a message to the nationalist community, said: "Your voice is not ignored. I understand your feelings and I will address them in legislation on this issue. I am only sorry that option was not open to me this summer."

## British car prices dearest in Europe

Chris Godsmark  
Business Correspondent

Britain has gone from being cheapest place in the EU to buy a car to the most expensive, in the space of just 12 months, according to research to be published later this month by the European Commission.

Despite its uninspiring title, the Commission's *Report on Car Prices* has become the bible for consumers who are prepared to travel to Belgium, Spain or Portugal to save up to 30 per cent on UK listed prices. In the process, many have to put up with a plethora of paperwork and occasional obstruction from manufacturers and dealers who are anxious to play down any price differences.

The report will show that the

UK is the most expensive EU country for 38 out of 50 popular models and the highest priced since the survey began in 1992. Portugal maintains its position as the one of the cheapest, whereas last year it was neck and neck with the UK.

In France, customers can take advantage of an unprecedented price war following a disastrous slump in sales in 1996. The survey began in 1992 after complaints that manufacturers were obstructing buyers from ordering cars abroad. Under European law, UK consumers can order right-hand drive cars on the continent.

Behind the UK's turnaround is the 20 per cent rise in the value of the pound, a source of delight to tourists abroad and despair to exporters faced with

collapsing profit margins. Last week, sterling nudged 10 francs on the money markets for the first time since 1991 and is fast approaching 3 Deutschmarks.

The EC report shows a big price gap between the most expensive and cheapest countries. Typically, buyers prepared personally to import their car can save up to 30 per cent on a "supermini" or medium-sized hatchback.

The comparisons in the table do not tell the full story, because they include local taxes which vary widely. Under a tax anomaly, consumers can buy cars in any country free of local taxes and instead pay taxes wherever the vehicle is registered.

It means British buyers get a double benefit, enjoying low prices abroad, coupled with some of the lowest car taxes in the UK of any EU country. The Portuguese prices, for instance, would be cheaper still if local taxes were excluded, while luxury cars in Portugal are taxed to virtual extinction. Against the savings, customers have to offset the cost of changing sterling into a foreign currency and the sheer hassle of buying abroad.

James Rosenstein, of European Automakers, the industry association, said the figures were another plank in the argument for a single European currency. "If there were a single currency a good deal of the differences would disappear."

## Minister refuses to ditch £2m oil shares

Christian Wolmar and Anthony Hawkins

Lord Simon, the former BP chairman and now a government minister in the Lords, has refused to divest himself of a large shareholding worth over £2m in the oil company.

Sir David Simon, as he then was, gave up the chairmanship of BP and a salary of £874,000 to be the unpaid minister for competitiveness in Europe with the Department of Trade and Industry soon after the election. According to BP's latest records, he holds 247,091 shares worth a total of £2.15m.

Lord Simon has promised not to trade in the shares, nor to be involved in any matters concerning BP, but the Tory opposition is not satisfied. John Redwood, the shadow President of the Board of Trade, told *The Independent* he had received Commons assurances last week that all was well. "We now learn that all is not well," he said yesterday.

The official Whitehall rules, "Questions of Procedure for Ministers", say: "A minister should, upon assuming office, review his or her investments and, if it seems likely that any of them might give rise to an actual or apparent conflict of interest, they should be disposed of."

In a weekend letter, Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, told Mr Red-



Lord Simon: Former chairman of BP refuses to sell shares

wood of the detailed arrangements that had been made to avoid a potential conflict of interest. "He [Lord Simon] has placed the generality of his shares in blind trusts. He has not, however, disposed of his shareholding in BP but has undertaken not to trade these shares before January 1998, at which time the position will be reviewed," she said.

"He is not involved in any of the DTI business which covers BP, nor does he receive any papers which have a bearing on BP. I understand similar arrangements are in place at the Treasury to keep Lord Simon apart from decisions in areas relating to his previous employment and that Lord Simon did not

contribute to the pre-Budget decision-making."

But Mr Redwood said that if Lord Simon had been blocked from any involvement in such matters, it was baffling that Mrs Beckett, his boss, had not known of that arrangement when questions had been asked in the Commons last Thursday.

It is also a matter of Opposition curiosity that Lord Simon should have put some shares in "blind trust" - under which he is not informed of investment changes or the state of the portfolio - while retaining his more significant BP shareholding.

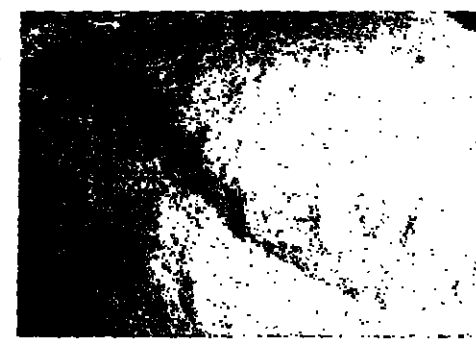
Mr Redwood told *The Independent*: "It is most important that a Labour Party which campaigned so strongly on an anti-sleaze ticket should be seen to be observing every letter and every dot of Questions of Procedure for Ministers."

"He should have sold his shares at the beginning; it's the only conceivable thing to be absolutely safe."

As for the idea that Lord Simon was going to be excluded from areas covered by his BP interest, Mr Redwood said: "I'm going to ask exactly what he is doing."

"Because BP is such a large part of the British economy, with so many interests in different fields, it could be quite difficult for him. I'm not at all satisfied by this answer."

Labour's secret cuts, page 6



NET CALL



BAR CALL

WINDSOR TOWN CARNIVAL	23 June-4 July
POLK, NEWLY CLONNET GOLF CLUB, COMBAY PARK	28 June-30 July
HARLEY ROYAL REGATTA	2-4 July
SAN DOMINGUE TERTIARY MATCH V AUSTRALIA, OLD TRAFFORD	5-7 July
HARVEY GOLF PALACE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER SHOW	9-13 July
BATHURST GOLF CLUB, SILVERSTONE	13 July
GLASGOW CHURCHFEST	27 July-2 August
COVENT WESS	2-3 August
BLUNDELL INTERNATIONAL THREE DAY EVENT	4-7 September
BATHURST MASTERS GOLF	10-21 September

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CHAMPAGNE OF THE SEASON

Where to drive the hardest bargain

	UK	IN EUROPE
Mitsubishi Charisma 1.6	11,890	10,418 (Spain)
Toyota Corolla	10,794	8,071 (Spain)
Volkswagen Golf diesel	11,365	8,844 (France)
Volkswagen Golf petrol	10,980	7,281 (France)
Fiat Punto 55 3dr	7,627	6,351 (Portugal)
Ford Fiesta 1.2	9,945	6,813 (Portugal)
Ford Escort 1.6	12,540	11,652 (Portugal)
Nissan Micra	7,800	5,898 (Belgium)
Pugeot 105	7,985	5,924 (Belgium)
Renault Megane Scenic	12,995	10,175 (Belgium)

Prices in the table are in £s, translating advertised prices in Spain, France, Portugal and Belgium, including local taxes, into sterling using Friday's tourist exchange rates. Research by Agnes Severin.



**Air-travel chaos looms**  
Business travellers and holiday-makers face disruption at Heathrow and Gatwick this week after talks aimed at averting a strike by British Airways cabin crew collapsed.

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## news

## significant shorts

## Warning after 'bus surfing' leaves boy critically ill

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents is urging young people to give up a "bus surfing" craze which left a 13-year-old schoolboy critically ill after a near-fatal collision on Friday night.

Accident investigators believe Birmingham Anthony Ball was holding on to the double-decker bus which he was "surfing" on rollerblades when he lost his grip and spun into the path of a van travelling in the opposite direction.

Roger Vincent, a spokesman for RoSPA, called on parents to warn their children to steer clear of the potentially fatal "bus surfing" craze amid concerns that it might spread to other areas of the country.

"There is no way children should be rollerblading on the roads - it is a crazy thing to do. Traffic and this sort of thing don't mix," Mr Vincent said.

## Waterstone's to open in small towns

Bookseller Waterstone's yesterday announced plans to open 50 small stores in towns across the country, creating up to 400 new jobs and giving the chain the UK's biggest branch network.

Towns from Altrincham and Bury St Edmunds, to Avy and Yeovil will see the new 2,500 sq ft shops, which will carry a full range of titles.

Alan Giles, Waterstone's managing director, said: "I am very confident that this major new initiative will transform the quality of bookselling in smaller towns, in the same way that Waterstone's has successfully opened in larger towns and cities throughout Britain and Ireland."

## Fertility expert sued over private work



A leading fertility expert is being sued for allegedly making "secret profits" from his pioneering work.

Dr Simon Fishel, who was part of the Cambridge team behind the world's first test-tube baby, Louise Brown, is accused of earning enormous sums abroad instead of focusing on his work at a non-profit-making university research centre.

Nottingham University has issued a High Court writ

seeking damages for breach of contract against Dr Fishel (pictured), who is also accused of setting secret passwords to stop staff at the university from accessing key computer files.

Dr Fishel, who strongly denies the allegations, said: "I have dedicated my life to helping infertile couples." **Claire White**

## Wreck holds gold worth £50m

A salvage team was yesterday preparing to start uncovering a wreck believed to contain gold bullion worth up to £50m at today's values. Two pumps to be used to clear the sand covering the remains of the packet ship *Hanover*, were being put in place off Cligga Point, near Perranporth, Cornwall, ready to begin work today. The square-rigged *Hanover*, which sank with all hands in storms in 1763 while en route from Portugal to Falmouth, was believed to be carrying gold coins then worth £60,000.

## Lottery jackpot roll over

For the second Saturday in a row there were no winners of last night's £8.5m National Lottery jackpot. The money will roll over to Wednesday's draw. The winning numbers were: 1, 4, 11, 36, 43, 44.

## people



ASCOT IN THE BALKANS: Sarajevans enjoying a race meeting yesterday, near the city's airport, scene of some of the fiercest fighting of the civil war. Until yesterday, the only race had been one of survival, from one end of 'Sniper's Alley' to the other (Photograph: Danilo Krstanovic/Reuters)

## Humble origins of the £5bn man from the Woolwich

Around 2.5 million people may today feel a debt of gratitude to John Stewart. As chief executive of the Woolwich Building Society he has steered it to a £5bn stock market flotation, giving its investors an average shares windfall of £2,000.

But as the City toasts Mr Stewart (right), whose annual pay packet is thought to be worth around £500,000, he may reflect on a career that has taken him from a grimy tenement block that might as well have been a million miles from the Square Mile, via that most old Labour of jobs - that of a trade union official.

Indeed, his meteoric rise through the Woolwich ranks belies his humble past. He is the son of a motor mechanic and shop assistant and grew up in an Edinburgh's tough Gorgie district. In 1977 he started out at the Woolwich's Glasgow office, making tea and opening post.

Now, 20 years later, he is the youngest chief executive of the Woolwich has had. He was appointed last year when Peter Robinson was unceremoniously turfed out, under a cloud of allegations relating to abuse of expenses.

It was thought that an impressive record in launching new ventures for the Woolwich won him the top job. "I am a bit of a workaholic but a happy one," he says.

I thoroughly enjoy my job, but I must say I'd give it up in a flash if I was offered a sailing job. The trouble is I can't find anyone daft enough to offer me one."

Mr Stewart's love of sport cost him his education. The



Hears fan won a place to study chemistry at Heriot-Watt University when he was 17, but he dropped out with ambitions to become a scuba diver. However, it soon dawned on him he wasn't going to make a career from deep-sea diving.

"I had to get a job and I learnt ever so quickly that hard work really does pay off. The penny dropped - the harder I worked, the better I got on," he said. "And what's more I enjoyed it."

Stewart knows the Woolwich intimately. In Glasgow he did every job in the branch, which gave him "terrific confidence".

In 1983 he first came to prominence within the Woolwich as chairman of its independent staff association, a registered trades union.

"I probably learnt more in that job than any other. I learnt a lot of people skills and the fine art of negotiating, which has been invaluable," he says.

Two years later, Stewart took a gamble and moved south of the border. "When I started in England I didn't really have a job as such. But I had a few ideas and was given a few opportunities."

The father-of-two now lives with his wife, Sylvia, in Bromley, Kent, and has a sailing boat moored at Medway.

"The flotation has been hard work and a long time coming but this is no excuse to sit back and relax. We're going to be busier than ever." **Alexandra Williams**

## HEALTH

## Choosing where to live can mean better care in old age

If you plan to grow old, choose carefully where you live. Having the right postcode could mean the difference between comfort and calamity if dementia sets in.

The amount spent per person on people with dementia ranges from £572 in one West Midlands health authority to £1,801 in a Home Counties health authority, according to a survey.

The size of the variation, disclosed by the Alzheimer's Disease Society (ADS), makes a mockery of the notion of a health service providing equal access for all its citizens.

One London health authority spends 23 times more on day care per person with dementia in one of the three boroughs it covers than another. In the top spending borough, the figure is £650 per head, compared with £28 in the lowest.

Harry Cayton, chief executive of ADS, said: "This begs serious questions about the overall accountability, transparency and equality of treatment in what is a publicly funded service."

Reasons for the variations include the higher costs of delivering services in rural areas and the higher costs of property in the towns. The report says these do not explain differences between authorities in similar areas. **Jeremy Laurence**

## FINANCE

## Unchecked bills mean lost billions

People are losing billions of pounds a year because of "irritable bill syndrome" - failing to check change or bills - a survey said today. Fewer than half of us (48 per cent) regularly check change, while just 44 per cent check money from cash machines.

Only 35 per cent of people check bills and receipts, although marginally more - 57 per cent - regularly check bank and credit card statements, said the survey, in which 1,000 adults were interviewed.

Behavioural expert Sue Keane blamed the results of the survey, which was carried out on behalf of Direct Line Insurance, on high-pressure lifestyles. "We are often too busy or stressed to make the time to benefit from sorting out everyday administration," she said.

Although people seemed casual about money, 91 per cent of those who were questioned said they were furious if they felt they had been ripped-off.

The most common irritation - shared by 52 per cent of people - was being overcharged for refreshments at concerts or football matches.



## ADVERTISING

## Devilish car campaign backfires

An advertisement for the Citroen Saxo car triggered an avalanche of complaints from viewers angry at its devil imagery, according to a report published today. A staggering 341 viewers complained about the advertisement - nearly double the number of protests over Rover's controversial campaign featuring a hostage exchange.

The Rover advertisement was pulled from the screen after a public outcry and claims that it trivialised the experiences of hostages, and was insensitive to the feelings of relatives of two Britons held captive in Kashmir.

The Independent Television Commission said that more than 50 parents had complained that the Citroen advert had terrorised their children. The advert features evil spirits flying around a gloomy factory as a Citroen car is transformed from a standard to a sports model.

As the change is completed, the driver's face "morphs" into that of the devil, with a voiceover proclaiming: "The new Citroen Saxo VTS is a Saxo, but with a bit of the devil inside it."

The ITC said "a significant" number of viewers had complained they found references to the devil offensive and others said they believed the advert could encourage road-rage.

It upheld complaints about the scheduling of the advert and ordered that it should not be shown before 7.30pm.

## WORK

## Pay inequalities at local level

There is no North-South divide in levels of pay - only severe inequalities within different regions, a new study claims today. A study by the Low Pay Unit found low-paid workers all over Britain, with women in all areas consistently earning less than men.

The findings showed the proportion of low-paid, full-time employees in the North ranged from 13 per cent in Middlesbrough to 24 per cent in Hartlepool. In the South-west, it ranged from 8 per cent in South Gloucestershire to 27 per cent in Cornwall.

The study concluded that "average pay leagues" and talk of a "North-South divide" disguised the real inequalities which existed within local areas - and between the sexes.

While Greater London was seen as a high-earning area, the lowest-paid women there earned £120 a week less than the overall average for women and men working full-time in Wales.

## HOLIDAYS

## Stay at home to beat stress

Two out of five people who go on holiday argue with their partner and almost a quarter are struck down by illness, according to a survey by Barclaycard, published today.

Holidays rank high on the stress rating scale, and the main causes of rows include spending money, forgetting to pack something and the state of the resort, it said.

Despite looking forward to their holiday for months, 42 per cent of people end up arguing with their partners when they finally go away. Nearly a third worry about running out of money, and more than 40 per cent of the 2,000 people questioned said they actually looked forward to going home at the end of a trip.

"Indecision about what to do on holiday, paying too much attention to the opposite sex, children, bad navigation and drink also cause arguments," said the survey. **Claire White**

## THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Austria	.....	Sch40	Ntlands	.....	R5.00
Belgium	.....	Bf80	Italy	.....	L4,500
Cananes	.....	Pts300	Madras	.....	Esc325
Cyprus	.....	£51.20	Malta	.....	43 cents
Denmark	.....	Dkr18	Norway	.....	Nkr20
Irish Rep	.....	.45p	Portugal	.....	Esc325
France	.....	Fr14	Spain	.....	Pts300
Germany	.....	DM4.5	Sweden	.....	Sk21
Greece	.....	Dr550	Switzerland	.....	\$44.00
Luxembourg	.....	LF60	USA	.....	\$3.00

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SATURDAY 12TH, 9AM - 8PM. SUNDAY 13TH, 11AM - 5PM.  
MONDAY 14TH AND TUESDAY 15TH, 10AM - 6PM. WEDNESDAY 16TH, THURSDAY 17TH AND FRIDAY 18TH, 10AM - 7PM.  
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## Lord of the Skies dies - or does he?

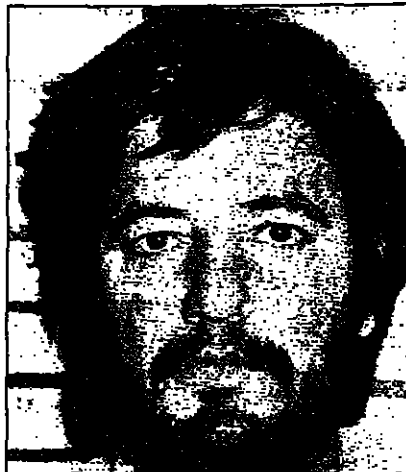
He was known as "the Lord of the Skies", a Mexican peasant who outplayed the Cali cocaine cartel at its own game and ended up with an estimated \$25bn fortune. His rival tried often to kill him but in the end he died, his family said, during plastic surgery to alter his appearance to elude the law.

Amado Carrillo Fuentes (right), 42, described by US anti-narcotics agents as the most powerful drug lord in the Americas, died of a heart attack on Friday while being operated on, under an alias, in a Mexico City hospital. Or did he?

While Mexican anti-narcotics agents confirmed his family's version - some viewed the body - US officials and many Mexicans wondered whether the most-wanted Mexican had used a lookalike cadaver to fake his own death and disappear from view.

If it was a hoax, it was pure Hollywood. Limousines carrying well-dressed businessmen, apparently drug lords, pulled up outside his mother's home in the town of Guamuchilito in the northern state of Sinaloa after the body was flown home. They kissed his mother, left wreaths and drove off.

There was also speculation that he had been discreetly assassinated by a rival cartel. He had escaped several attempts, once leaping from a bathroom window in a Mexico City seafood restaurant as off-duty policemen hired by a rival riddled



the place with machine-gun fire and killed four of his nine bodyguards.

If he really died, US agents predict a bloody turf war among rival cartels and repercussions among corrupt local, state and even federal Mexican officials.

Carrillo Fuentes headed the so-called Juarez cartel, based in Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso, Texas. After at first taking only cash from the Cali cartels for smuggling their cocaine across the border, he muscled into the big time in the Eighties by by-passing the Columbians and buying cocaine directly from producers in Bolivia and Peru.

He won the nickname "Lord of the Skies" when he bought a fleet of French Caravelle airliners, removed the seats and shipped tons of cocaine from Colombia to airstrips on his ranches before moving it across the border into the US.

Phil Davison, Mexico City

## Fears for aid workers kidnapped in Chechnya

Concern was growing last night for two British aid workers kidnapped four days ago in the breakaway Russian province of Chechnya. The Foreign Office said there had been no contact from the armed gang which seized Jon James and his girlfriend, Camilla Carr, last Wednesday.

They were abducted from the house where they were staying in Grozny by half a dozen masked men. Three people - including their two bodyguards - have been questioned by police. A Foreign Office spokesman said last

night: "There has still not been any contact or demands. We have no idea who has got them. We are being very active but I cannot say how, it is too sensitive."

The couple, who are in their 30s, have been working in the region since April. The Foreign Office will not say what part of Britain they are from.

They were working for a local body known as the Centre for Peacemaking and Community Development, helping children who suffered from the 21-month conflict which ended last August.

سكزا من الاربعين





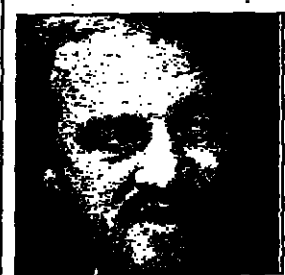
Hot dish: Clive Sharrocks, executive head chef at Smolensky's restaurant (left), shares a joke with Peter Wakera, his demi-chef de parti Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

## Too few cooks spoil the broth

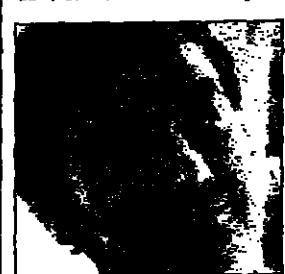
### Top earners



**MARCO PIERRE WHITE**  
Recently floated his company on Stock Exchange at £20m. Restaurants include Critérium and Mirabelle; £350,000 a year



**ANTHONY WORRALL THOMPSON**  
Associated with Ménéage à Trois, 190 Queensgate, Dal upgo and about to open Wex in west London; £250,000-300,000 a year



**KEITH FLOYD**  
BBC TV chef - last series was on food of southern Africa; £8,000 per demonstration. Fleet Lloyd Grossman charges £3,500

### Kim Sengupta and Agnès Séverin

Those at the top are powerful and glamorous figures appearing on television shows and in newspaper gossip columns. But the fare is far more frugal at the other end of the business, and restaurants are having trouble finding new chefs.

The supply of cooks is drying up just as the demand for them has reached a post-war high. Foody Britain is booming with customers displaying an ever-increasing appetite for the rich variety of cuisine on offer from the Pacific Rim to Peru.

Restaurants and recruitment agencies have launched a range of new initiatives to counter the problem, including a pilot scheme to retrain unemployed inner-city teenagers, starting new apprentice schemes and cooking schools, and recruitment drives on the Continent, Australia and in the United States.

The opening of large-scale "eating emporiums" like Sir Terence Conran's Mezzo, Bluebird and Ousglino's, and ventures by others, such as the People's Palace and the Gao Tower in London, has also had the effect of sucking staff dry from the already shallow pool. The Bluebird, for instance, needs 120 chefs, while the Mezzo has a complement of 100.

Recruitment agency Portfolio International, of south-west London, is working in conjunction with the Lennor Lewis College in Hackney, east London, which is funded by the WBC world heavyweight boxing champion, for the "Opportunities on a Plate" project to train and place local young men and women in the kitchens of establishments in London's West End.

It is being backed by leading chefs and restaurant groups including Stephen Bull, the Pelican Group, Smolensky's, Catering and Allied and One Whitehall Place.

Gordon Ramsay, the two Michelin star-winning chef at Aubergine, is considering opening up his own catering school. He also believes the apprentice system should be widely expanded because many of the existing college courses do not adequately prepare students to meet the arduous task of surviving and succeeding in commercial kitchens.

A student coming in straight from catering school, he said, can get as little as £130 a week. He added: "We have a situation where the pay is low, it is going to take up to 10 years before they qualify as experienced chefs and thus it is essential they get a thorough training

at the beginning. My partner and I at Aubergine are seriously considering opening up a school."

Jeffrey Dymond will start his two years' apprenticeship, after having been unemployed for four years, during which time he was only offered jobs washing-up. "I was told the news two days ago. It's a start for me. They have given me a great help to get where I wanted to be, as a chef," he said.

For his part, Mr Ramsay began working as a teenager at Wroxton House Hotel, outside Stratford-upon-Avon, earning £50 a week. He later went on to work for Guy Savoy in Paris, where his wage of £90 a week was £10 less than his room rent, the deficit being made up by a bank loan. A stint with three Michelin star-winner Guy Robeson followed before his return to fame in London.

Fellow two Michelin star-holder Michel Roux, of La Gavroche, was 16 when he started his four-year apprenticeship in Paris in 1976, working for Alain Chapel. His pay was then £20 a month. He said: "I do pay my junior staff more than £130

"The restaurant trade has become a victim of its own success... as a result demand for chefs is rising"

a month. However, if something like the minimum wage comes in, then a lot of establishments will face major difficulties. This is undoubtedly very hard work. You put in incredibly long hours, and you go home very late at night smelling of food. But it is a screening process, and ones who are dedicated get to the top."

Stephen Bull, owner of three acclaimed London restaurants, added: "In a way, the restaurant trade has become a victim of its own success. Business is booming, and as a result demand for chefs is rising. When you get the huge Conran complexes coming in, it obviously adds to the problem. Allied with that there is a sizeable drop-out rate from catering schools. A lot of students seem to be getting on them without really thinking out the long-term."

Sir Terence Conran is the patron of the Butler's Wharf Apprentice School adjacent to his complex of restaurants. The school's other backers include the Café Rouge and Chez Gerard.

More than 650 students are due to pass out this year, and some of them will get employment in Sir Terence's restaurants. But the group still needs to search abroad to find chefs.

Conran restaurants' PR manager, Victoria Parnis said: "The fact is that chefs are held in far higher regard in places like Australia and the US than they are over here."

"Over there it is treated as a serious profession, and we need to instil that concept in this country. Until that is achieved, we are going to have problems."

## Thousands will be grounded after BA talks fail

Barrie Clement  
Labour Editor

Tens of thousands of business travellers and holidaymakers face severe disruption at Heathrow and Gatwick airports this week after 11th-hour talks aimed at averting a three-day strike by British Airways cabin crew collapsed yesterday.

The airline said last night that it would try to operate half its inter-continental flights from Heathrow, west of London, and one-third from Gatwick, West Sussex, after the action begins at 6am on Wednesday. Hardest hit will be European services from Heathrow, management conceded, of which only one-quarter of flights will operate.

The stoppage will also hit internal BA flights to Heathrow, although the airline said the dispute will not affect international flights from Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Domestic and European services at Gatwick are also outside the scope of the dispute. Union officials said last night that while BA might be able to get flights out, they would have difficulty getting aircraft back to Britain because overseas airport unions had promised to back the strikers.

The industrial action involves members of the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU), but the company is hoping to maximise the emergency timetable with the help of non-strikers, managers and contract staff. The minority union Cabin Crew 87, which has accepted the pay offer at the centre of the dispute, has nearly 3,000 members and a further 1,500 employees are not members of any union.

In the absence of a settlement, the TGWU intends to call further three-day strikes when this week's stoppage ends at 6am on Saturday.

Some industry sources believe that the company might today seek an injunction to stop the industrial action, possibly on the basis of an allegedly

flawed strike ballot. Litigation may only serve to "prolong the agony" for BA, however. Preparation for strike-breaking flights and cancellations of advanced bookings have already cost the company tens of millions of pounds, according to some internal estimates.

Last-ditch talks yesterday at a Sussex hotel broke down amid mutual recrimination. The TGWU said that a 12-point peace formula which it submitted to management was dismissed after 10 minutes, while the company accused employees' representatives of "dragging the discussions backwards".

Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, said the union had no interest in the competitiveness of the business, did not recognise the need for change or for modern industrial relations. He claimed more cabin crew than anticipated had confirmed that they wanted to work normally during the strike.

A BA spokesman said the airline had no option but to implement contingency plans after the talks broke down after nearly five hours. Representatives of 9,000 cabin crew rejected an offer of an independent monitor to ensure that no one lost out from the pay package which the company has already imposed on stewards and stewardesses.

Another peace offer in a separate dispute involving BA ground crew has been put out to ballot, with the result due mid-week. The airline's airport staff, who have also voted for strikes, are protesting over a plan to sell off the company's catering business. Unions of officials expect the 1,400 employees of the division who are directly affected by the sell-off will reject the peace formula.

Bill Morris, the TGWU's general secretary, said the airline was behaving as if it "desperately needed the strike". The news of the talks' collapse emerged a few hours before John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, was due to deliver a keynote address to a pre-conference TGWU rally in Brighton, East Sussex.

## A bitter taste for Egon Ronay as he goes to battle with his publisher

Kathy Marks

Egon Ronay, the food critic whose name is synonymous with gastronomic excellence, has two priceless assets: his taste buds, which he once insured for £250,000, and his reputation, carefully nurtured for most of a lifetime.

The latter, he believes, is now under threat from the company that owns the best-selling restaurant guides bearing his name.

A High Court writ issued by Mr Ronay against Global Infocom Ltd alleges that the company failed to pay promptly the inspectors who tour Britain filing reports for the guides.

Several were kept waiting months for their expenses and fees, according to the writ, with some owed more than £2,000.

Mr Ronay said yesterday that adverse publicity about the inspectors' plight had tarnished his reputation. "I feel that the credibility of the guides has been undermined and that it reflects poorly on me," he said.

"I have always been known for my reliability and integrity. I earn my living on the basis of my good name, and now it has been soiled. This is an unsavoury situation with a bad odour, and I wish to divorce myself from it."

The writ says that a report last

month in *Career and Hotel-keeper*, the trade publication, suggested that the 1998 edition of the *Flagship* volume, *Egon Ronay's Guide to Hotels and Restaurants*, was in jeopardy because inspectors were refusing to visit any more establishments.

Mr Ronay founded the guides in 1956 and ran them for nearly 30 years. In 1985, he sold them to the Automobile Association, which in turn sold them to Leading Guides Ltd, now known as Global Infocom.

In a licence agreement, Global Infocom publishes the guides under Mr Ronay's name, but the licence reverts to him if certain conditions are breached.

He resigned as a consultant to the company in May.

Some of the inspectors have written to him, asking him to help them to recover money allegedly owed to them. They were recently paid their out-of-pocket expenses, he said, but as of last Friday were still awaiting their fees.

"This is all very depressing because the guide was my baby," said Mr Ronay, whose lawyers are still calculating the level of damages he is to seek. "I created it from nothing and it has become an institution."

No one was available from Global Infocom yesterday to comment on the writ.



Ronay: Issued High Court writ



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## Drumcree confrontation

## A harsh choice between two evils

Bitterness and hurt as  
Chief Constable allows  
Loyalists to march

David McKittrick  
recounts 12  
traumatic hours on  
the Garvaghy Road

12.20am: Soldiers move in around Drumcree church, causing both Protestants and Catholics to assume the Orange march is to be stopped. A witness sympathetic to Catholic residents says: "We stood and watched them seal it off with barbed wire, dragons' teeth, sparks flying from welding. We said, God, they're not letting them through and we all went home."

3.30am: Residents are taken by surprise as scores of armoured vehicles and hundreds of troops and police suddenly saturate the Garvaghy Road in the darkness.

They accuse the Royal Ulster Constabulary of manhandling sit-down protesters; police say they were attacked with petrol-bombs and stones.

5.30am: Police systematically deal with around 100 protesters, carrying them away or pushing them back with riot shields. Daylight shows the police are wearing new flame-resistant overalls, boots and balaclavas, together with shin, thigh and arm protectors.

Groups of 20 police respond in practised unison to commands shouted by inspectors. Some missiles are thrown at them; in one of many angry incidents a man with dried blood on his head goes up to the police line and shouts, "Come on, use the oil baton, come on."

6.40am: By this time police have lined the Garvaghy Road with approximately 75 armoured Land Rovers. At the Churchill Park housing estate flashpoint a second cordon of police and troops has been established 70 yards into the Catholic estate.

This means the mass of Catholic residents is not within a stone's throw of where the parade will pass.

7.40am: The army, using large Saxon troop-carriers and several hundred men, has established two further cordons within the estate. Small entries leading to the Garvaghy Road are each manned by around a dozen soldiers.

By this stage the mood of Catholic residents is one of angry resignation: with the estate saturated movement is difficult and access to the Garvaghy Road all but impossible. Some



McKittrick: 'Your voice is not ignored. I understand your feelings'



Mowlam: 'A simple, stark choice in ... balancing two evils'

go off to bed as the tension eases for the moment.

8.10am: The forward cordon of Land Rovers and police remains on alert but the main contingent, lining the Garvaghy Road, relaxes.

Some drink Lucozade, one takes off his shoes, a few warm food on small gas cookers; others take off their flak jackets and other equipment and sleep on the ground or on their riot shields. Small change which has fallen from the pockets of those carried away by police lies on the road; no one picks it up.

10am: Since residents cannot reach their church at the top of the Garvaghy Road, Father Sean Larkin celebrates open-air mass against a background of an army vehicle cordon. He says they feel anger, hurt, humiliation and depression but insists they must respond "with vigour and non-violence".

Asking the congregation to shake hands as a sign of peace, he himself walks over and shakes the hands of two soldiers.

12.45pm: Residents congregate in readiness for the Orange parade. Some bottles and missiles, including golf balls, are thrown at police lines by youths. Stewards attempt to stop them. Residents stage a noisy protest, beating the ground with dustbin lids, blowing whistles and banging saucepan lids with sticks.

1pm: The cacophony reaches a crescendo as around 1,200 Orangemen pass by. They march silently and briskly, six abreast. Many look straight ahead, not even glancing through the police lines towards the jeering residents. Occasional missiles are let fly but none reaches the parade. Two residents who have penetrated the police cordon hold up posters and shout "Bastards" and other abuse at marchers and police.

1.20pm: The parade having passed safely by, more missiles are thrown at police who are now in the process of withdrawing from the area. Male and female stewards link arms to push the stone-throwers back. A chant of "No ceasefire" goes up from a section of the crowd.

As troops and police carry out a phased withdrawal from the housing estate and move along the Garvaghy Road, they come under increasing attack from young stone-throwers. Although stewards attempt to stop this, the throwing is greeted with an increasing volume of cheering, which appears to encourage the attackers.

Police and troops reply with a dozen or more plastic bullets to fend off the throwers.

They eventually depart from the scene leaving the estate and the Garvaghy Road strewn with debris.

3pm: Disturbances break out in nationalist districts of Belfast and elsewhere.



Sign language: Residents of Garvaghy Road confronting a British soldier involved in the security operation which protected the Orange marchers

Photograph: PA

The day Blair's  
government lost  
its innocence

It will go down as the day the Blair government lost its innocence. Having basked for two months in the post-election contentment of a people wearied to their bones with 18 years of Tory rule, it now finds that in one part of the United Kingdom at least, it has deeply alienated at a stroke a large section of the community.

From 9am yesterday, when the Royal Ulster Constabulary's Chief Constable Ronnie Flanagan announced that the Portadown Orangemen could walk down Garvaghy Road, it was threatened with a dangerous draining of confidence among Northern Ireland nationalists.

This may not be permanent and it was certainly, given the impossibility of pleasing both sides in the summer marching season, inevitable that one or other of them would feel betrayed by yesterday's agonising decision on the Drumcree march.

But that doesn't make it any less painful, particularly for Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, whose boundless energy, openness and sheer personal likeability had been beginning to disarm potential allies on both sides of the sectarian chasm.

The reason that it took so long to reach the decision was that neither she nor Mr Flanagan gave up hope until the weekend that the local Orangemen might be finally persuaded to seize the moral high ground by establishing but then waiving their right to parade down Garvaghy Road.

This had been the course urged on them in public by Robert McCartney, the independent Unionist MP for North Down - as well as in private by at least one or two senior Orangemen. And in a context in which the Garvaghy residents' coalition - which is led by Brendan MacDonagh, once jailed in connection with terrorist offences - was unwilling to shift its ground, this seemed the only hope.

Late on Friday night Ms Mowlam took the unusual step of travelling with Adam Ingram, one of her ministers, to an Orange hall in Lurgan to try and persuade 150 local officers of the order to take that course.

By all accounts she warned them bluntly that a decision to go ahead risked playing into the hands of Sinn Féin. The next few days will tell how far that warning was correct.

Once that effort had failed, however, it was left to Mr Flanagan to decide which was the least dangerous course on public order grounds. Constitutionally she could have banned the march, thus overruling the advice of both Mr Flanagan and Lieutenant Rupert Smith, the General Officer Commanding. According to government sources, the advice



DONALD MACINTYRE

was not only that there was a danger of sectarian murders of Catholics by loyalist paramilitaries if the march was stopped, but also every likelihood of an increasingly uncontrollable stand-off at Drumcree by Orangemen. It was just such a stand-off which caused the then RUC Chief Constable, Hugh Amessley, to reverse his decision to reroute the march last year.

In the end Ms Mowlam felt she had no choice but to act on that advice. She did so after regular contact during the past few days with Tony Blair.

She expressed optimism yesterday that the new Parades Commission, due to be operational by next summer, will somehow afford a fresh start to the quest for a solution to the now annual marching crisis. There is much scepticism about this - though the commission will at least take into account in its deliberations the "third side" in Northern Ireland - those who want freedom from trouble.

In the meantime, as Ms Mowlam knows better than anyone, her most urgent task is to rebuild confidence among nationalists that democratic means offer them the best chance of lasting self-respect.

#### Minister was in Orange Order

Adam Ingram, Northern Ireland security minister, was a *teenage member* of the Orange Order, it was disclosed in Belfast. It will feed nationalist suspicion of government bias but there were similar mutterings from loyalists when Michael Antram, a Roman Catholic, was appointed Conservative minister responsible for political talks.

The Orange Order is strong in Glasgow, where Mr Ingram grew up. The Northern Ireland Office said in a statement: "Thirty-four years ago, at the age of 16, Mr Ingram was a member of the junior Orange lodge for about a year. He has not been a member of that, or any other loyal orders, since." A Labour MP said: "Put it this way, he's a strong Rangers supporter." But Mr Ingram does appear to have broken tribal lore in one vital regard - he is married to a Roman Catholic.

## Orange marchers receive soccer star welcome

Michael Streeter  
Portadown

The Portadown Orangemen who marched down Garvaghy Road were given a heroes' welcome of cheers and applause on a scale more associated with an FA Cup final.

As the Edgarsdown Accordion Band struck up an old army anthem leaving the Catholic area, the mood of several thousand

Protestants at their end of the street was in sharp contrast to that of the nationalists a few hundred yards away.

Georgia Liggott, 71, sporting a No Surrender Badge, said: "It is a victory. The police and soldiers have done us proud this year. They've done us proud."

She added: "And we'll be down again next year."

A Portadown Orange Order spokesman regretted the need

for the security forces to clear the route, but said common sense had prevailed over the decision to allow the march.

The parade, which organisers said contained 950 people, all from the Portadown district order, had begun its return journey from Drumcree church at 12.50pm. It followed a service at which Portadown's Orange leader, Harold Gracy, urged members to show no triumphalism during or after the event. He warned the 350-strong congregation, which included the local MP and Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble, and the hundreds more listening to loudspeakers outside: "If any one steps out of line this could be the last parade."

A message from Archbishop Robert Eames was read out, in which he praised those who had sought peace and reminded Or-

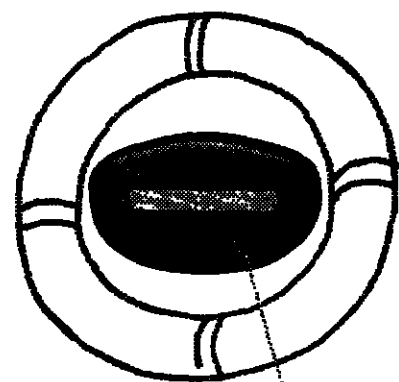
angemen of their responsibility. "With the eyes of the world upon you at this time I ask you to reflect the ethos of your culture with respect and dignity."

In his sermon the rector of Drumcree, the Rev John Pickering, said that at last year's events "the country nearly came to the brink of something awful".

He believed, however, that Drumcree could become a "turning point" for peace in Northern

Ireland if people accepted the message of Jesus Christ.

After the parade had moved on, the 19th-century blackstone church and its surrounds quickly returned to normal. But yards away in a largely Protestant area, a new banner gave a somber reminder of the deep sectarian divide in the town, proclaiming: "There are no nationalist areas in Portadown - they are just temporarily occupied."



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## news

# Revealed: Labour's £5bn secret spending cuts

Anthony Bevins  
Political Editor

A hidden cut of £5.25bn has been imposed on next year's government spending plans, hitting every departmental budget from education and health through to social security and transport.

Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrats' Treasury spokesman, revealed the swingeing cutback yesterday and said it also threatened to breach Labour's election pledges on policing and overseas aid - with fewer officers on the beat and yet another cut in aid.

The covert cut has been imposed by the decision of Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of

the Exchequer, not to compensate departments for the impact of higher-than-expected inflation next year.

While he was eager to reap the dividend in terms of higher revenues - helping to slash public borrowing - he made no attempt to loosen individual departments' tight spending curbs.

A Commons library analysis of the result of that decision was given to Mr Brown last week in a note which said: "Because of the higher actual and forecast rates of inflation, expenditure in 1997-98 will be some £3bn lower at 1995-96 prices and expenditure in 1998-99 will be some £5.25bn lower."

The Commons library reinforced the point by saying that

the extra £1.2bn allocated to health by Mr Brown in last week's Budget would result in only an extra £410m spending, after the additional inflation had taken its toll.

"These developments make an absolute mockery of Gordon Brown's claims to be providing extra money for education and health as most of the extra money will be eaten into by inflation," Mr Bruce said in a statement.

"There is an irreconcilable tension at the heart of this Budget," he told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*. "The reality is that there is no ability for the Chancellor to claim that he is boosting key sectors of public expenditure, reducing

borrowing and generally improving the public finances with no pain." Departments, he added, had been left with "impossible" spending limits.

A Labour spokesman accused Mr Bruce and his party of "economic illiteracy", but the charge was endorsed by Andrew Dilnot, of the highly-respected Institute for Fiscal Studies. He told the programme: "The planned change in the real level of total public spending is much lower even than the extremely low figures that Kenneth Clarke [the former Tory Chancellor] was forecasting."

While the Conservatives might well be embarrassed by the fact that it was left to the Liberal Democrats to detect the

critical detail, some Labour MPs were also showing signs of private embarrassment that the left-wing had been so quiet about the Budget.

Ken Livingstone wrote in the *Sunday Telegraph* that while Labour MPs had worked themselves up into "a sub-organismic ecstasy", Mr Brown had missed his chance to take the steam out of an over-heated economy with a £10bn windfall tax and abolition of mortgage interest tax relief.

"The discipline of Labour's Left in the run-up to the election was absolute, but we cannot be expected to remain silent as we watch the Government sow the seeds of a future Labour general election defeat."

## Shoplifters move in on art world

Ian Burrell

Professional shoplifting gangs are raiding commercial art galleries to steal bronze statues worth up to £50,000 each.

The gangs are using classic shoplifting techniques to distract gallery owners in a crime wave which has netted bronzes which are together valued at more than £500,000.

Insurance companies are alarmed. Mark Dalrymple, chairman of the Council for the Prevention of Art Theft, said: "They are nothing more than shoplifters who have realised it's much easier to go into a gallery and take something worth £25,000 than lift a load of gear from Marks & Spencer which is only worth £100."

The chief targets are galleries in the West End of London, but incidents have also been reported in Bath and Harrogate.

One gang is described in a security bulletin issued to art galleries as like "extras in the television soap opera *EastEnders* in the way they dress and act". Some carry long coats over their arms for camouflage and others distract gallery staff.

The security bulletin warns: "Some dealers' staff are too casual about unlikely customers entering galleries asking about the prices of bronzes or other works. These are individuals who are clearly not in the market to buy. They may well be in the gallery to steal."

In May two men were arrested when a Henry Moore



bronze was found in the back of a taxi which was stopped for a routine inquiry at a security checkpoint in the City of London. The statue, valued at £50,000, had been reported

stolen a month earlier from the Waddington Galleries.

Charles Hill, risk manager at art insurers Nordstern and the former head of the arts and antiques squad at Scotland Yard,

Soft touch: Galleries are being warned to tighten security after thefts by shoplifting gangs

Photograph: John Voos

suggested that bronze statues should be wired down or fitted with security alarms. He also advised galleries to fit closed circuit television cameras and to ask customers to hand in their coats and bags.

Galleries fear new security measures will hinder them interesting the wider public in art. Neil Smith, secretary of the Society of London Art Dealers, said: "We are trying to educate people and trying to encourage people into galleries but how on earth do you combine that with the measures that are needed?"



Night on the gown: A red evening dress with shawl from the French fashion designer Torrente's autumn/winter collection in Paris yesterday

Photograph: Gareth Watkins

## New targets for health

Jeremy Laurence  
Health Editor

Tough new targets for improving public health are to be set by the Government to reduce the health gap between the rich and poor.

Tessa Jowell, minister for public health, will today set out the Government's strategy for reducing health inequalities and announce plans for co-ordinating action across government departments to reduce the burden of ill health and disease. The targets, to be set out in

a Green Paper in the autumn, will replace those in the previous government's Health of the Nation strategy launched in 1992. Ministers believe that that strategy highlighted the problems but failed to focus action to remedy them.

The Health of the Nation strategy included 27 disease and population targets for reducing rates of heart disease, stroke and cancer as well as smoking, teenage pregnancy and suicide. A report last year by the National Audit Office said that it was failing on three

population targets - obesity, smoking and drinking, in which the trends were upward.

The new strategy is expected to retain the disease targets but have fewer population targets, each of which will be backed by a programme to ensure it is achieved.

Ms Jowell, giving her first major speech as health minister at a national conference organised by the health department in London, will also announce the Government's plans to re-examine the 1980 Black report on inequalities in health.

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Bowie: His Major Tom was addicted to heroin Photograph: Scottish Daily News

Jason Bennetto  
Crime Correspondent

Pop stars should be banned from using lyrics that glorify drugs and encourage people to take illegal substances, one of Britain's senior police officers has urged.

Keith Hellawell, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire and the Association of Chief Police Officers' spokesman on drug issues, wants the music industry to introduce a code of practice for what he describes as the "obscene" lionising of drug use.

His initiative follows a number of high-profile cases in which pop stars have sung about

the joys of taking drugs. In one case, a cover of a single, "Sorted for Es and Wizz", by the band Pulp, showed how to make a wrap, or envelope, to hold drugs such as ecstasy, cocaine and speed.

Song writers have always taken an unhealthy interest in drug taking, although most, such as the Beatles' "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" - which is a reference to LSD - have used hidden references. More recently, lyrics such as those by the rave group the Shamen's chart-topping "Ebeneszer Goode" - "Es [ecstasy] are good" - seemed explicitly to extol the benefits of drugs.

Mr Hellawell said: "The music industry is clearly churning out a lot of records, some of which glorify drug-taking. Some of which even tell young people how to prepare drugs and take them."

"It's almost a subliminal drip on the culture of young people. He added he was concerned about songs that "encourage children to take drugs. I think that is obscene."

"I'm hoping that we can develop with the music industry some protocols which they can self-police."

"[This could include] developing a code of practice that they would not purchase, produce or sell records that glorify the benefits of drugs."

"I would like to think they could go only so far and not glorify drugs and will children to get involved."

He stressed that he did not want to stop all references to drugs, just those that encourage abuse.

He added: "I know drugs have played a part throughout the ages with art."

Mr Hellawell ruled out setting up a regulatory body, and instead hopes to meet representatives from the music industry to discuss the issue.

But the record industry yesterday rebuffed the idea. Sarah Roberts, press officer of the British Phonographic Industry

## Can you ever take the drugs out of rock and roll? A top policeman thinks so



The Shamen: Topped the charts with Ebenezer Goode - Es are good

(BPI), which represents almost all of the record companies in the UK, said: "We support drug education but we also support an artist's rights of expression."

"I don't think you would get any music company adopting that line because they will want to guard the artist's freedom of expression. The music industry is all about artistic expression."

She said the BPI already operates a voluntary code of practice for records that contain obscene language, under which the industry places a label on

offending products saying "For Parental Guidance".

Melissa Thompson, press officer for Pulp, said: "It would be a form of censorship. Also I can't think of many bands or songs that encourage the use of drugs."

In September 1995, Jarvis

Cocker, Pulp's singer, changed the graphics on "Sorted for Es and Wizz" after complaints about their including instructions on the sleeve on how to make a wrap for drugs.

Drugs have long been a source of inspiration for writers and had star billing - often un-

knowingly to parents - in some of the most famous songs ever recorded.

"Brown Sugar" by the Rolling Stones dealt with interracial sex and touched on Mexican heroin. In "Purple Haze", Jimi Hendrix made his excuses and kissed the sky - a typically

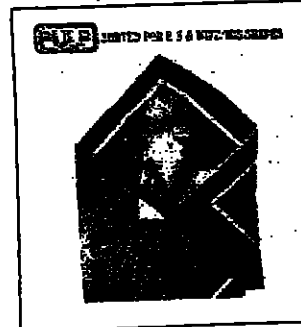
psychedelic reference in a song full of drug imagery.

David Bowie discussed drug addiction through his music. "Ashes to Ashes" featured Bowie's alter ego Major Tom who is friendless and alone, trapped in space and addicted to heroin.



Hellawell: 'Stop glorifying drugs'

**'It's a subliminal drip on the culture of young people'**



It's a wrap: Pulp's CD cover

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"We operate an equal opportunity policy and we are confident that it is fair and impartial," the spokeswoman said. About 3 per cent of the Prince of Wales's staff - two people - were from the ethnic minorities.

one or two stragglers began to leave in the downpour, he aimed his lines directly at them:

*"And gentlemen in England now abed  
Shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here.  
And hold their manhoods cheap..."*

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# Cambodia slips towards civil war

Fighting rages across Phnom Penh as Hun Sen moves to oust rival

Matthew Chance  
Bangkok

Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh, reverberated to the pounding of rocket and mortar fire last night as the country was plunged into the prospect of a bloody coup d'état.

As rival army factions loyal to the nation's two vying prime ministers battled in a second day of intense street fighting, corpses were left strewn across the roads. 15 people have been confirmed dead and more than 50 injured. But casualties are likely to be far higher.

Air traffic and telecommunication links have been severed and all roads into Phnom Penh blocked as columns of tanks under the command of Hun Sen, the country's powerful "second" prime minister, rumbled through the deserted streets.

During the day Hun Sen's forces captured the headquarters of first prime minister Ranariddh's FUNCINPEC party and the prince's residence, both in the heart of Phnom Penh. Then in a radio broadcast last night, Hun Sen declared that his rival was no longer prime minister, though he claimed he did not want the job. "The position is in FUNCINPEC's quota so let FUNCINPEC adopt a political figure," he said.

By late in the day, Ranariddh's forces still held ground to the west of the city and their Tang Krasang military base near the airport.

Prince Ranariddh's exact whereabouts were not known, but aides in Phnom Penh said he had left the country on Friday on the eve of the fighting

and was in France. At nightfall yesterday, puffs of black smoke from destroyed petrol stations were billowing over the city and cracking gunfire was heard punctuated with the dull thud of incoming shells. Mortar bombs rained down on the French Embassy, badly damaging its compound.

Thousands of people abandoned their homes for the relative safety of the countryside, carrying what little belongings they could manage on bicycles and carts. Many have been escaping the city by boat. Military officials in Thailand say their information is that a coup has taken place; they are preparing three military transport planes to evacuate Thai nationals once the situation has stabilised.

Hun Sen denies staging a military takeover. "The armed confrontation is not a coup, or an attack by one political party against another political party," Hun Sen assured Cambodians in last night's broadcast. But simmering tensions between Cambodia's co-premiers has been threatening to plunge the country into renewed civil war for more than a year.

Divided over most issues, the two are currently locked in a dangerous political stand-off over plans to induct defecting Khmer Rouge guerrillas into the government army, and to allow the reviled leaders of the movement - with the exception of the hated Pol Pot - back into politics.

Hun Sen, a former Khmer Rouge commander who collaborated with the Vietnamese to oust the genocidal movement in 1979, remains a *bête noire* to members of the group. He opposes their integration, fearing that their well-trained and heavily armed fighters would join army ranks loyal to Prince Ranariddh, a former Khmer Rouge ally, and threaten his military superiority.



On the move: Phnom Penh residents fleeing fighting between Cambodian soldiers loyal to the country's feuding prime ministers Photograph: Reuters

Since the 1993 elections, in which Prince Ranariddh was returned to power, Cambodia has been in political limbo. Hun Sen, wielding considerable military muscle, was the loser at the ballot box. But to appease his Cambodian People's Party, he was offered a co-premiership in

an uneasy coalition. The next elections, after which only one prime minister can assume office, are due next year. Both men have been jostling for advantage in the tense and frequently violent build-up to the polls.

Last month, amid reports that a deal had been struck between the Khmer Rouge leadership and Prince Ranariddh, fighting between rival government factions erupted on the Phnom Penh streets. But the latest fighting is both more prolonged and severe, raising fears

that Cambodia has finally stepped over the edge of peace into war. A 60-strong group of expatriates, led by the Australian military attaché and including several Britons, crossed over into Thailand by land last night.

But this weekend her rivals snubbed her decision by convening parliament anyway and passing a slew of decisions weakening the president's powers and paving the way for a referendum to dismiss her.

## Karadzic allies weaken Bosnia's president

Andrew Gumbel

The shadow of Radovan Karadzic threatened to blow apart the political establishment in Serb-controlled Bosnia this weekend, as supporters of the former leader turned fugitive from international justice became locked in a bitter power struggle with the Bosnian Serb President, Biljana Plavsic.

Mrs Plavsic, who has denounced Mr Karadzic as the mastermind behind a mafioso smuggling ring that is in effect running the local economy, attempted to quell the hardliners last week by dissolving the Bosnian Serb parliament, where Mr Karadzic's friends hold a slim majority.

While Mr Karadzic's allies, who include the Serbian member of the three-man Bosnian presidency, Momcilo Krajisnik, enjoy strength through numbers, Mrs Plavsic has the support of the international community, particularly the Americans, in recognition of her recent pro-Western positions and her desire to open Serb Bosnia to the outside world.

She and Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, had a meeting last month which appears to have strengthened her resolve to crack down on petrol and cigarette smuggling that Mr Karadzic is believed to be running in cahoots with the Interior Ministry. Last week, Mrs Plavsic attempted to dismiss the Interior Minister, Dragan Kijac, only to be given the third-degree at a party meeting in Bijeljina.

# Mexican polls threaten Zedillo's stranglehold

Phil Davison  
Mexico City

In elections described by most Mexicans as historic, the country's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) looked like suffering major setbacks in yesterday's parliamentary, state and mayoral elections.

The PRI, which has held the presidency and controlled congress since the party was founded in 1929, was in danger of losing its parliamentary

majority for the first time as voters chose 500 new MPs. No single opposition party has the support to take over that majority but together the two main opposition parties could win enough votes to present President Ernesto Zedillo with a hostile chamber of deputies for the first time.

With only 32 new senate seats at stake - to create a larger senate of 128 seats - the PRI's control was not in danger but the party also faced close races in at least two of six state governorships

at stake. Both houses have traditionally been rubber stamps for the president and successive PRI governments.

Perhaps more important, symbolically, was the race for mayor of Mexico City, one of the world's largest cities with a population of more than 20 million, which the ruling party seemed bound to lose for the first time in the PRI's history.

Under pressure for democratic reform, President Zedillo was forced to hold mayoral elections for the first

time in 70 years. Previously, the president - always from the PRI for the past seven decades - handpicked one of his favourites for the job.

Casualties: Cardenas, a social democrat and 63-year-old son of the 1930s President Lázaro Cárdenas, looked almost certain to become mayor by defeating both the PRI and the conservative National Action Party (PAN) candidates. Mr Cardenas was widely thought to have won the presidency in 1988 but believes

he was robbed through a computer fraud which gave a narrow victory to the PRI's Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

Mr Cardenas sees the mayor's job as a stepping stone for another run at the presidency in 2000 when Mr Zedillo's six-year term expires. That means he would be mayor for only 20 months - from inauguration on 5 December - since he would have to stand down to campaign for the top job.

While his popularity has soared in the capital, Mr Cardenas's Party of

the Democratic Revolution (PRD) was likely to trail a distant third in yesterday's parliamentary and state governorship votes.

Despite Mexico's tradition of fraud, most people feel Mr Zedillo has done his best to create clean elections - perhaps for the first time - through electoral reforms. But Mexican and foreign observers spread out across the nation's ballot stations, which number more than 100,000, to watch for ballot stuffing or coercion.



Caught: A video shot of recruits staging a mock execution

## Picture that shames the German army

Erik Kirschbaum  
Reuters

Bonn - A German newspaper yesterday published pictures from an amateur videotape of soldiers staging mock executions and rapes.

A youthful recruit in a Bundeswehr uniform is shown holding a pistol in the mouth of another recruit in an image published on the front page of *Bild am Sonntag*.

Another photograph shows a soldier pretending to rape another recruit acting as a woman civilian, who is later shown being marched to "execution" by troops. Other pictures show enacts of "civilians" being tortured and hanging from trees. Images which revived memories of atrocities by Hitler's armies.

"There will be no toleration whatsoever of such perversion in the Bundeswehr," the Defence Minister, Volker Rühe, said in an interview with ZDF television. "I will do everything to see that those involved are disciplined and prosecuted. We will ... take action against all those involved, even if they are no longer in the army."

The army said eight recruits on the film, made at Hammelburg training ground, near Würzburg, in April 1996, were no longer in the army. The Bundeswehr investigation also focused on officers who failed to report the incident which took place during a break in training for soldiers preparing for a mission in former Yugoslavia.

Lieutenant-General Helmut Willmann, the army's officer, said acts by "a handful of mentally disturbed individuals" could not besmirch the force's good name. "I am horrified by what happened at the Hammelburg training ground," he said in a statement released by the defence ministry.

The Greens criticised Gen Willmann for trying to write off the incident as an aberration, as officers knew of the tape for more than a year but said nothing about it. Jürgen Trittin, chairman of the Greens, said the incident was the latest of a series of unsettling incidents. There had been 53 reported incidents of right-wing extremism in the army in 1995.

Wolfgang Schraut, commander of Jaeger Battalion 571, where the incident took place, said the recruits could no longer be punished by the army because they had left. "We will not be able to get our hands on them any more," the officer said. "They were released from the army in an entirely normal fashion after completing their military service."

He said he did not know of the existence of the videotape until Friday and had learned that it was shown "on occasion in small circles among the comrades". Some 3,000 Germans are in the Nato-led Stabilisation Force (SFOR) in Bosnia. Around 4,000 Germans took part in SFOR's predecessor, the peace Implementation Force but were stationed in nearby Croatia.

## significant shorts

### Gaullists put faith in Séguin as party leader

President Jacques Chirac's Gaullists elected the former parliamentary leader Philippe Séguin as their party chief, hoping the popular politician will lead them back from last month's election loss. Mr Séguin, 54, still a member of parliament and mayor of the eastern town of Epinal, told the Rally for the Republic Party he would open "a new and decisive page" for the Gaullists. He replaces the former prime minister Alain Juppé as RPR president and has been the party's *de facto* leader since leftist parties defeated Mr Juppé's conservative coalition in parliamentary elections on 1 June.

AP - Paris

### Brazzaville racked by fighting

Mortar fire shattered the calm around Brazzaville airport as further cracks appeared in a cease-fire between the President and his chief rival. Spokesmen for President Pascal Lissouba and former dictator Denis Sassou-Nguesso said on Saturday that both agreed to halt fighting which has raged for a month. But soon after fire resumed. A family of four were killed on Saturday when a mortar crashed into their home in a northern neighbourhood.

AP - Brazzaville, Republic of Congo

### Trouble down on the kibbutz

There was outrage in Israel's kibbutzim after an article in a religious paper recommended that the collective farms be "wiped off the face of the earth." The article in the ultra-Orthodox *Kol Hashavua* said kibbutzniks "don't work very much," exploit cheap labour from nearby towns, take up land which they have been given for free and milk the state for money.

AP - Jerusalem

### Lenin row takes explosive turn

The debate over burying Lenin's body took an odd twist when a Communist group claimed responsibility for planting mines in a statue of another titan of Russian history, Peter the Great. The group said the mines were a warning to politicians who want to move Lenin from his public resting-place on Red Square. Police defused the explosives without incident.

AP - Moscow

### Mobutu men on the rampage

Remnants of the defeated army of the dictator Mobutu Sese Seko are terrorising the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Kasai province. Residents said they had wreaked havoc in Sankuru region, and urged President Laurent Kabila's forces to move in.

Reuters - Kinshasa

### Move to halt ethnic slaughter

Pakistani police arrested 220 people suspected of involvement in ethnically motivated killings that have racked have Karachi. On Saturday two men who burst into a wedding reception and shot dead the groom, his two-year-old nephew and his brother.

AP - Karachi

### Hizbollah kill Israeli soldier

An Israeli soldier was killed in fighting with pro-Iranian Hizbollah guerrillas in south Lebanon. In retaliation, Israeli planes launched three separate raids on Hizbollah positions in the area.

Reuters - Marjayoun



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## international

# Son of Zog makes grab for limelight

As the second round of Albania's general election passed off relatively smoothly yesterday and the victorious Socialist Party readied itself for office, just one major obstacle remained in the way of a smooth transition of power: the towering figure of the man who would be king, Leka Zogu.

The self-proclaimed heir to Albania's throne, a commodity broker from South Africa who stands 6ft 10in tall, started out as an eccentric footnote to the country's electoral process, but has ended up grabbing the limelight by means both fair and foul. His royalist party has wreaked havoc by claiming to have been cheated of victory in last Sunday's referendum on the reintroduction of the monarchy. His highly visible thugs have provoked bloodshed and a lurking sense of unease on the streets of Tirana.

The referendum was a quirky addition to the electoral pot cooked up by Albania's belea-

**Andrew Gumbel reports on a royal threat to orderly transition of power in Albania**

guered president Sali Berisha. It is now clear, however, that Mr Berisha has used the would-be king to stir up trouble in the hour of his own defeat.

Mr Berisha's Democratic Party, and particularly the newspapers it controls, have given full credence to Leka's claims that he lost the referendum because of Socialist-inspired vote-rigging (the final result was 2-1 in favour of a republic). Some of the president's own bodyguards have been seen waving guns and shouting at Leka's public appearances.

When the monarchists opened fire on police during a bloody demonstration outside the central electoral commission

on Thursday, a man killed in the ensuing fracas turned out to be a member of the Democratic Party. When the man was buried on Saturday, a senior Democratic Party figure, Genc Polo, accompanied Leka at the funeral.

In theory, Leka and his family have no right to enter Albanian territory except by special invitation. In theory, too, the Democratic Party has no sympathy with their cause; indeed, Mr Berisha thwarted their plans for a visit back in 1993. But when Leka failed to leave the country when his 24-hour visa expired back in April, there was not so much as a squeak in complaint. The interior ministry has the power to expel him at any time, but the ministry is under the control of the Democratic Party.

Leka, whose father King Zog ruled the country for 25 years, 11-year rule in the 1920s and 1930s, is now based at a leafy villa in one of Tirana's more pleasant districts and goes

everywhere in the company of rowdy, heavily-armed security guards. His dress has included a blue safari suit and, during Thursday's demonstration, army battle fatigues. He has refused to speak English in the presence of foreign journalists, even though it is his best language, and has responded with fury whenever reference is made to alleged arms-trafficking activities, for which he was forced to leave Spain in the late 1970s.

If he scored as well as he did in the referendum, it was as a symbolic counterweight to the two main parties. However,

most Albanians appear unimpressed by Leka himself and his programme to resuscitate his father's 1928 constitution.

Fatos Nano, the Socialist leader now expected to become prime

minister, said Leka was welcome in Albania as long as he left the monarchy at the airport. But as the would-be king's violent rhetoric and behaviour continue, Mr Nano may have to think again.



Towering presence: Leka Zogu with mourning women during the funeral ceremony at the weekend for a man killed during clashes with police. Photograph: AFP

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## Battle for a bigger Nato tests Solana's diplomacy

Javier Solana, the Nato secretary-general, faces the task tomorrow of launching it on its most important and most risky post-Cold War mission - expanding membership to the east. A Spanish physicist turned diplomat and foreign minister, he appears to have little doubt he will succeed.

He predicts the Madrid summit will be an overwhelming success. Nato leaders will finally name the countries that have made the grade to join in the first expansion wave, demonstrating once and for all the West's commitment to end Cold War divisions. "It will be quite a happening," he says.

Privately, however, he must be worried. In past days he has worked the diplomatic channels, calling alliance leaders, including Tony Blair, to try to avert a row at Madrid. The clash is looming over which countries should be declared winners in Nato's membership contest - or, as others are describing it, Nato's "oriental bazaar".

Washington, which wants just Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic in the first wave, is at loggerheads with France, which wants Romania in, and Italy, which wants Slovenia. How other alliance members will line up is not clear but political interests are certain to play a key role. The US has angered some Europeans by demanding a limit of three starters, largely because wider expansion would not be approved by Congress.

Britain backs the US, while the Scandinavians want a place in the first wave for at least one of the Baltic states.

Estonia, which has qualified in many eyes, is bitter at the prospect of being left out at the start, and Romania says a decision to exclude it first time round would be "cynical".

The squabbling has also sent a signal of Nato weakness to Moscow. On the eve of Madrid, President Boris Yeltsin refused to attend, snubbing Nato a month after appearing to soften opposition to expansion by signing a co-operation pact in Paris.

Mr Solana believes a deal can be done which will please all sides. "It will have to be three members, four members or five." He also believes those left out in the first wave will be reassured by the promise of a second wave soon after. "Everyone must understand that Madrid is the beginning of the process, not the end. Sometimes people think this will be the end. But it is not true that those who don't get in this time will never get in."

But more is at stake than simply names on a list. The Madrid summit comes at a time when Western enthusiasm for bringing former Eastern Bloc countries in from the cold has been tapering off within Nato and the European Union.

Last month's Amsterdam summit on reform of the EU demonstrated its lack of vision

On eve of Madrid summit, alliance chief tells Sarah Helm that he is sure of success

and doubts about enlargement by failing to agree on changes to institutions which would accommodate new members.

Now many leading EU political figures are questioning whether Amsterdam achieved enough to allow enlargement to go ahead on time.

Divisions at Madrid would show that Nato too is in a quandary about how to manage enlargement, showing that it is more intent on its own squabbles than on achieving more high-minded objectives. One of Nato's prime objectives since Mr Solana took over in 1995 has been to secure a stronger role for the European arm of the alliance, a move boosted by France's declaration that it intended to rejoin the integrated military command structure.

But France has said it no longer intends entering the Nato core grouping, due to anger at refusal by the US to make key concessions. Mr Solana is finely tuned in to the transatlantic debate, having always been a strong advocate of securing a stronger European Nato defence capacity and a de-



Solana: Faces dispute over which countries are eligible

fence role for the EU. Today, however, he is determined to ensure nothing undermines Nato's passage to expansion. Questioned about its future role, given the demise of the Russian threat, he proffers the familiar vague warnings about deterring arms proliferation and defusing ethnic conflict.

But enlargement is clearly the objective for Nato which Mr Solana most fervently believes in. As a young socialist, Spanish membership of the alliance was anathema to him, but in today's changed world Mr Solana believes that "collective security" for the new democracies gives Nato's mission firm moral underpinning.

"Both the institutions of the EU and Nato have a responsibility to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Both have to open their doors - although at what velocity we will have to wait and see."

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BRITISH AIRWAYS

## arts

# If you go down to the woods today

... you could be in for a big surprise. There's a growing number of venues to view sculpture when out taking a country stroll. By **Richard Ingleby**

**S**culpture in its many and various forms has been a particular strength of British art over the past 50 years, but despite decades of international acclaim, it has taken a while for an awareness of these strengths to filter through to the people who plan the way that our country looks. Too often sculpture is only included in the equation if it has a municipal rather than aesthetic role, celebrating or commemorating something other than itself. There are exceptions, of course, namely Henry Moore and Eduardo Paolozzi, whose works crop up all over the place (in London alone there are 16 major Moors scattered from Stepney to Chelsea) but one has to search pretty hard up and down the country to find anything by Caro, Cragg or Deacon.

Happily, two recent events bode well for the future. The first was last week's unveiling of David Mach's *Train*, a giant brick locomotive emerging from the hillside by the A66 in Darlington. At 40 metres and 185,000 bricks, it is the largest single sculpture in the country, and thanks to a healthy collaboration between the public and private sectors it will now be a permanent crowd-pleasing fixture in the landscape of the North-east.

The second event, less lasting but equally encouraging in the long run, was last week's inauguration of Dulwich Picture Gallery's grounds as a show-case for contemporary sculpture. Their combination of large gardens with the backdrop of Sir John Soane's architecture makes it an obvious venue for outdoor exhibitions, and the choice of Stephen Cox for the first of these summer shows is an inspired one.

Cox, who increasingly looks like one of the finest sculptors of his generation, is also showing at Goodwood, 50 miles south-west of London, on the 20-acre estate which has over the past three summers established itself as a platform for the best of contemporary British sculpture. It is a fantastic concept, beautifully realised, and last weekend it celebrated its third birthday with the publication of a new volume devoted to the current selection of work and the unveiling of the most recent commission: a giant throne by David Nash, standing 17-feet tall and carved and charred from a single piece of oak found on the estate. Oddly, given Goodwood's setting amidst woodland walks and glades, Nash is the only artist in this year's show who works with wood; the other 40 or so sculptures are in a mixture of bronze, steel, lead, various forms of stone and, in the case of David Mach, 3,600 galvanised wire coat-hangers and a Chrysler jeep.

Goodwood is the grandest of the outdoor venues that have appeared over the past few years, but it is by no means the only place to look at sculpture in the open air this summer. The New Art Centre at Roche Court, near Salisbury, first opened its doors, or rather its grounds, in 1990, initially by appointment but it is now open to everyone every day of the year. Like Goodwood, everything is for sale, at prices from a few hundred to a million pounds, but unlike Goodwood (which charges £10) entrance is free. It's a wonderful place with lovely views and trees and cows and, of course, some fine sculpture.

Its current exhibition concentrates, loosely, on the 1950s with work by Hubert Dalwood, Reg Butler and Bernard Meadows (although less than half a dozen of the 87 works on show are from that decade) and there is a good selection of more recent things, including Antony Gormley's *Learning to Be I*, a spindly figure well placed amid a grove of equally spindly trees; and a newly commissioned work by Alison Wilding. Among the other highlights, and there are many, is a simple stone monolith by Barbara Hepworth, pierced by a single hole with a painted pale blue groove and, when I visited in the rain last week, a streak of bird shit down one side — one of the hazards of putting art in the open air.

Birds were also a bit of a problem at Wimborne in Dorset, where the vicar's son spent the past month keeping clean the 52 sculptures that were scattered in the grounds of Deans Court, the staggeringly beautiful 18th-century house which recently hosted "Sculpture in the Garden 1997". Their favourite perch, by all accounts, was William Turnbull's bronze *Idol*, one of several distinguished works included by the organisers to add weight to an exhibition chosen predominantly from open submission, some of which, such as Maria Marshall's *Pod*, teetering on the edge of a long fish pond, and John Maine's *sandstone spiral* on the main lawn, looked so good in the landscape that it's hard to imagine how the gardens will manage without them. The exhibition has just ended, but on this year's evidence the next biennial instalment, in June 1999, should be an event worth putting in the diary.

The Wimborne venture is one of a number of locally organised shows that have sprung up in recent summers in the gardens of English country houses. One of the best of them, "Fresh Air", in the grounds of the Old Rectory in the Gloucestershire village of Quenington, opened recently with a mix of established names, including Lynn Chadwick and Sophie Ryder, and numerous lesser



A spindly figure amid a grove of spindly trees: Antony Gormley's *Learning to Be I*, 1992, at Roche Court

knowns. Worth watching among the latter are the considerable talents of Emily Young, Craig Murray Orr, Richard Bray, and, if bridges are more your thing than sculpture, Richard La Trobe Bateman, designer and maker of a fine suspended footbridge.

Not surprisingly, these summer shows which rely on the efforts and enthusiasms of individuals, rather than on the resources of places like Goodwood or Roche Court, are less rigorous in their selection of work and less ambitious in their aims, yet there is something to be gained by their lack of professionalism. The great strength of the Quenington show, despite the undeniable beauty of the Old Rectory's riverside gardens, is its lack of grandeur. The scale is less imposing, more domestic, than at many of the more organised venues, providing a rare opportunity for sculptors to show their work in a way that relates to more ordinary living

spaces and ordinary lives. The subtext of the Quenington exhibition is that art can and should play a part in our everyday worlds.

As indeed it should wherever we live. It's a long way from the riverside gardens of Quenington to the side of the Thames at Battersea, but something of the Quenington spirit could come in useful in SW11 in the course of the next few years. Last week's announcement of the proposed redevelopment of the 35 acres of wasteland around Battersea Power Station (not to mention the even bigger Millennium site at Greenwich) seems like a great opportunity for a London exhibition, along the lines of the Sculpture show that dominated the South Bank during the 1951 Festival of Britain, celebrating the recent achievements of British sculptors.

The powers behind both schemes could do worse than take all those involved on a day trip to Goodwood to

see how genuinely inspiring sculpture can be once removed from the restrictions of a gallery or museum. Of course, the natural beauty of Goodwood, or anywhere with long vistas of trees and fields, will help any sculpture, whatever its merits, to look its best, but, as Henry Moore put it: "I would rather have a piece of sculpture put in a landscape, almost any landscape, than in the most beautiful building I know."

In the right hands, the open skyline of a Thames-side site could easily become an urban equivalent of the open-air experience and a lasting tribute to one of the great strengths of British cultural life at the end of the 20th century.

*Sculpture at Goodwood is open Thurs-Sat, 10.30am-4.30pm (01243 538449); The New Art Centre, Roche Court is open daily 11am-4pm (01980 862244); 'Fresh Air', Quenington, to 18 July: Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm (0128 5750 358)*

## CLASSICAL Nigel Kennedy CBSO/Simon Rattle Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**E**MI's Centenary Gala Concert at Birmingham's Symphony Hall was framed either end by the music of Sir William Walton, with the rousing *Anniversary Fanfare* (commissioned for EMI's 75th Anniversary Concert) placed first and the most viscerally thrilling account imaginable of *Belshazzar's Feast* to close. Sir Simon Rattle conducted, and I doubt that anyone present had ever heard the more extrovert passages in *Belshazzar* (and there are many of them) sung with such burning intensity. When the choruses announced that the King was slain, the word "slain" was declaimed with such force that palpable shock-waves swept through the audience. The combined choruses of the Cleveland Orchestra and City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra were joined by baritone Simon Keenlyside, and if the projected EMI CD of the event reproduces it with anything like accurate fidelity, then make sure to protect your speaker cones.

The concert opened with Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Four-Horned Fandango*, a sort of near-revelation of Ravel's *La Valse*. The work opens among a plethora of reptilian string slides, with sinewy horn writing and much telling counterpoint. The real action starts among the lower strings, and thereafter, keyboards, strings and sundry gongs (a whole mass of them) create a sensual soundstage. Once reached and exhausted, the fandango itself subsides and the work ends, as it began, in a mood of mystery.

Audience response to the Turnage was more respectful than ecstatic, though the composer's appearance on stage prompted an extra burst of applause. Nigel Kennedy, on the other hand, inspired a pre-performance ovation. True to form, he shared a few light-hearted thoughts with us, then launched into an unscheduled "warm-up" account of the Prelude from Bach's Third Partita for unaccompanied violin. However, for most of us, Elgar's Violin Concerto served as the evening's musical "main course" and Kennedy's performance, although far from more-perfect, had a reckless, risk-taking quality that was quite exhilarating. His famous studio recording of the work was conceived — interpretatively speaking — more or less "by the book", but Saturday's concert performance was brazenly unconventional. Rattle's handling of the opening tutti was both strong and assertive, with loving rapportage of the second subject (particularly from the cellos) and impulsive gear changes. And although Kennedy eschewed some of the swooning slides that he had favoured years ago, his playing had gained in urgency, most noticeably in fast, double-stopped passages, which — in terms of speed — sometimes outstripped even Heifetz.

I was occasionally reminded of the great Albert Sammons, very occasionally of Menuhin, but more often than not the combination of Kennedy's hot-headed exuberance and Rattle's excitable conducting left an indelible mark on a score that, in the recent past at least, has fallen prey to some relatively tame interpretations. Rattle's previous Symphony Hall collaboration in the work, with Gidon Kremer, was ineffectual by comparison. If I had one reservation, it concerned the second movement, where Kennedy seemed to be pushing forwards and Rattle pulling back — although there were some breathtaking *plianissimos* among the violins. The ghostly accompanied cadenza that dominates the third movement was superbly sustained and the closing pages, refreshingly lean. The audience went wild; more Bach followed (a beautiful reading of the first movement from the Third unaccompanied Sonata), and *Belshazzar* concluded the celebration.

Robert Cowan

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AR Y LLINELL O GYFFORDD  
GOGLEDD MAENDY I GYFFORDD  
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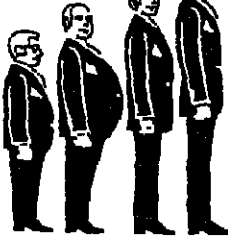
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# Macca's big adventure

All of Paul McCartney's instinctive musicianship is being channelled into a symphonic poem, a work that is proving to be the biggest challenge of his career. He talks exclusively to Edward Seckerson about the journey towards the magnum opus



Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

**'A**llen Ginsberg thought *Standing Stone* was a great title," says Paul McCartney, as if to confirm beyond reasonable doubt that it really is. He knows how to drop a ringing endorsement when he needs to. It's almost as if, after all the history, all the achievements, all the accolades, all the recognition, Paul McCartney - sorry, Sir Paul McCartney - still has to remind himself (and us) that, yes, he really is up there with the big boys, the history-makers like Ginsberg. The trouble with being a legend in your own lifetime is that you can play up the just-a-Liverpool-lad-made-good charm all you like, but no one can ever forget who you are, whether you remind them or not. And living up to who you are is always tougher than being who you are.

OK, so you've written most of the best popular songs in the second half of this century, but

is past and you really are history. There is a lot of history riding on *Standing Stone*, McCartney's latest, and most ambitious - as in magnum - opus. One hundred years of EMI, for starters. It was they who commissioned him, four years ago. "I'll accept, 1997 will never come," he remembers thinking at the time. Wrong. He had begun to realise just how wrong when we last met, two years ago. By then he had moved beyond the contemplation stage, beyond what he calls "the white canvas" stage. Enthusiastic painter that he now is, he cites Willem de Kooning's ritual of writing his friends' names on the canvas to get over that dreaded moment where you make the first mark. Instead of names, McCartney wrote a poem. An epic poem. A Celtic poem. His own ecstasy is Liverpool/Irish, so the fascination runs deep. In Scotland, he'd come to know one or two "standing stones" person-

ally. Touching them triggered something inside him. Something mysterious. Not knowing what they were and where they'd come from - that was inspiring. And you thought "Mull of Kintyre" was passing fancy. So it began with a poem. Four stanzas. Four movements? A symphony? A symphonic poem? McCartney took advice. Symphonic poem was freer, more in keeping with his narrative. He started gathering some ingredients - tunes, motifs, ideas. From keyboard to cassette tape recorder - that was stage one. The London Symphony Orchestra were already on board. He had it on good authority that they were "a rocking band". There would be a chorus, but used instrumentally (a primitive vocality à la *Depot's* and *Chloe*). There would be light. Remember "Carnival of Light", a "sound collage" experiment dating back to his Beatles days? Well...

"*Liverpool Oratorio* came off the back of my normal music and stretched it a bit. This time, I wanted to go further, to

acknowledge in my own way, as best I could, the end of the 20th century... There's a passage in the narrative, a sea voyage, which takes the form of a kind of Celtic jazz - except that it all goes horribly wrong, and the everman figure at the centre of the piece - might that be McCartney himself? - "finds himself lost at sea. So here it is: my first atonal music. One of my colleagues suggested that I might be putting in for my doctorate with this one!"

Of course, there is a hidden melody in all of this ("Some days" from *Flaming Pie*, actually). Ever since *Sergeant Pepper*, where McCartney and Lennon sought to mesh the experimental with the melodic ("A Day in the Life" might be seen now as a premonition of sorts), he has been, aching to go further. He has come to love the broader instrumental palette, the string quartet that becomes a symphony orchestra, the symphony orchestra that becomes whatever you want it to be. The knives will be out, of course. There will always be those who resent these "intrusions" from the pop world. What's he doing on our side of the border, they'll be saying. But McCartney is unbowed. He reckons he has earned the right to his sojourn. Who knows, he might just stay.

McCartney has never lost his innocence. His music is born of innocence, instinct, a primitive, untutored wisdom. His melodies don't get written, they just are. In the air, like they've always been there. So, to borrow an image from one of his songs, it's a wise fool - all-seeing, all-hearing, a "man of a thousand voices" - who inhabits the hill down in deepest Sussex where his studio is situated. The old windmill doesn't turn any more, but there is a timelessness about its presence. Inside the stone cottage that adjoins it is McCartney's musical nerve-centre, the engine-room of his many enterprises. Right now they're putting together the first mix of *Standing Stone* - the recording. As I arrive, producer John Fraser confirms that McCartney's ear did not deceive him, and that one note of a key violin solo in the first movement had somehow got displaced by a semi-tone between the computer print-out and the finished score. McCartney knew it as

soon as he heard it (he doesn't read music, but his ear is frighteningly keen). The question is, can he live with it? His note was quirkier. When he started working on computer, he found himself enjoying - even compounding - the "accidents" of the process. Sometimes the computer would add notes he was trying to erase and out would come these deep, dense, crunchy chords - which he later discovered were known as "tone clusters" in the trade. He grew ever fonder of them, these "little bunches of grapes" on the print-outs. He loved the noise they made and found himself deliberately subverting the process to achieve them. The sense of freedom was amazing. "From where I come from, if you're in C and someone plays C sharp, heads turn. It's a wrong note. Actually, it was a bit like painting, where you hit upon a colour you don't mean to hit upon and it's exciting and unexpected." Anyway, from out of these early experiments came a string quartet piece which he promptly handed over to the Brodskys to record. He called it *Inebriation* just to hedge his bets. "So, in a sense, fucking up was a great starting place for me."

Gradually, an A-Z of *Standing Stone* began taking shape in the computer. Getting it out of the computer accurately - matching up the cassette tapes and print-outs - required assistance. This is where the necessity for a back-up team became apparent. Enter composers David Matthews and Richard Rodney Bennett and saxophonist/composer John Harle. Harle was to be McCartney's "structural engineer", advising him on deployment of his material, on where and how he might expand it, make best use of it. He started to get excited by the process of development. He started listening to Beethoven symphonies. It was as if the melodist and the busker in him had finally found each other.

So here is how the piece began. In the beginning was a fireball hurtling through space towards its place in the universe. "So we've this void, and this ball of fire, and we know nothing - we don't even know what fire is. I needed to find a sound for that. Something primitive. I needed to rob the players of all their expensive tuition. So, for the first three minutes or so, we hear only open notes. No fingering. So we've got these open strings in divided cellos and basses kind of rubbing up against each other, creating this really earthy rhythmic friction."

And the composer is excitedly vocalising the moment, from pond-life, cell-life - to present day. The standing stone of the title is a symbol of our enduring humanity, a monument to EMI and a celebration of both. The final movement, prefaced in the score with words from the poem ("Strings pluck, horns blow, drums beat"), dances to the music of our time. Woodwind mechanicals are marked *rustico*, slowing to *sognando* (dreamily). McCartney hasn't forgotten how I once gently mocked him for using fancy Italian terminology in his scores. "Look, I do it to be practical," he says. "It's the universal language in music. It may be a bit cooler to say

short score into something truly filmagoric: "I let Richard go with this," he says proudly, hinting at other occasions when he'd found it necessary to rein him in. McCartney was determined that, unlike *Liverpool Oratorio* (where collaborator Carl Davis's presence was perhaps too strongly felt), *Standing Stone* would be much more of a hands-on experience for him. At one point when he felt he was losing control, he called up the three key members of his support team (or "the politburo", as they became known during the Abbey Road sessions) and declared autonomy - as in "Guys, I'm taking over". He and Rodney Bennett had their moments. McCartney was happy to concede that this or that passage was "a bit of Scotch tape" (usually because it was, that the end of the third movement was too thin, minimalist, "see-through" ("Philip Glass would have liked that bit," he adds, spinning off into a lively digression - and his inquiring mind makes for a lot of those - on Glass and Buddhism)).

But then came the fax from New York in which Rodney Bennett referred to one particular passage as "feeble". McCartney felt a little too much like the pupil on that occasion. So when the teacher submitted his first draft of the final pages, it was the composer's turn to pull rank. "I told Richard that there were a few too many Ds in the C major, that it was a bit too LA, a bit too Carpenters. 'Ooh, you are cruel,' he said. But he took my point. I wanted to go for big, fat, open C-major chords. It was more me, more English."

And indeed it is a grand Anglican moment where the chorus - a cappella - suddenly acquires the power of speech and the love song finds words. McCartney is thrilled with this moment - he makes no secret of that. For a time, he considered building it into a real scarf-waving conclusion. But the quiet, "humble" option won out. The final line of text reads "I'll stay with you" and 200 voices have the last word - in unison.

During the recording sessions at Abbey Road, McCartney rarely listened from the control room. He spent most of his time on the studio floor, among the musicians, where the action was, where he'd always felt most at home. At home in Sussex, the studio floor has many stories to tell. In one corner is the harpsichord used on the Beatles' "Because". In another is the stand-up bass used on Elvis Presley's earliest and greatest hits, including "Heartbreak Hotel". The recording that first made the difference for schoolboy Paul. And in another is an old Mellotron (an early synthesiser) salvaged from Abbey Road. McCartney starts playing those wheezy barrel-organ chords from the start of "Strawberry Fields Forever". And suddenly there's this incredible feeling in the pit of your stomach that history has just repeated itself.

"*Standing Stone* will be released on CD by EMI in September. It will receive its world premiere at the Royal Albert Hall on 14 October."

It was a bit like painting, where you hit upon a colour you don't mean to, and it's exciting'

it's unlikely that you'll ever better "Eleanor Rigby", which you wrote when you were 21. So what do you do? You keep diving in. You dare. You've got this incredible anthology of daring to build upon. Life begins at 40, and again at 50. You take up painting, writing poetry, sailing, horseback riding. You write an oratorio - *Liverpool Oratorio*. You relish the incongruity. You get slapped by the "serious" music press. But you've just got going and not knowing where you're going is half the fun. So you elect to continue "the awfully big adventure". Only this time Carl Davis won't be holding your hand. You and your computer will work it out, with a little help from your friends (funny how there's a Beatles song title for every occasion). And while you're about it, you'll make another solo album (*Flaming Pie*) just for the fun of it. And some critics will say that it's old hat and others that it's sweet and true (which it is). But it's yours, and no one can write your music but you. So you keep writing, because all that really matters is that you don't wake up one day to find that the past

## Kylie and Donna go babysitting

I've always thought the vicarious reading of tabloids through second-hand reporting of them in the broadsheets a very good idea: that way you retain your intellectual credibility while not missing out on any of the week's juicy stories. Unfortunately my upbringing prevents me from doing your dirty work for you (my mother used to switch the television to BBC even when it was turned off, ITV being considered the television equivalent of a tabloid), but instead I can offer you *The Daily Telegraph* by proxy. With reckless disregard for my own blood pressure, I bring to you readers coddled in the lukewarm waters of liberal journalism a few of the more choice right-wing gobblets. "This is a Budget for Sharon and Tracey," wheezed the *Telegraph* last week. "They will now be paid to look after one another's babies, while Darren and Kevin, the putative fathers, are up in the loft pretending to do up granny's insulation. If they stumble on an old silver teapot, they may regard it as a windfall. Gordon Brown has set them an example." Which all goes to show how completely out of touch the *Telegraph* is - everyone knows that Nineties' single parents are called Kylie and Donna.




Dinah Hall

Having failed to construe this as a tribute to her warmth and kindness, my sister then set her up. Sadly I missed Gordon's performance in Parliament (but never mind, the BBC is bound to offer repeats when Gordonmania really kicks in) - would a *Radio Times* cover be too much to hope for? But caught his political broadcast later that night. Someone who evidently has no understanding of the dour appeal of the man has instructed him to smile - a manoeuvre as it is for us to watch. He uses a method which can only have been perfected by weeks of gruelling training in front of the mirror - lifting both corners of the mouth upwards and holding it for the duration of one word, usually at the end of a sentence. Like performing bears, it's a cruel and undignified practice that should be banned. Blair smiles quite enough for both of them - Gordon was put on this earth to glower.

The death of Robert Mitchum last week reminded me that I have always had interesting taste in men. As a child, my heart was divided between Mitchum's cleft chin and Cliff Michelmore's double chin. So I should not be surprised that one of my daughters harboured a secret passion (not so secret any more, I suppose) for Ian Lavender in *Dad's Army*. But her first stirrings of passion at the age of seven were for a teacher at school. "I don't know why," she confided one day, "but when he is on playground duty, my brain just tells me to fall over."

Because she was so genuinely puzzled by her own irrational behaviour, I suggested that it might perhaps be because she hoped he would rush over to carry her into the sickroom and tend to her wounded knee? "Yes, that's it!" she cried, amazed at my perspicacity and obviously relieved that she was not suffering from mad calf disease. I only recognised the symptoms because several of the school gate mothers shared them - only in their case it was more like sad cow disease. Developing illogical crushes on figures of authority is, of course, something I grew out of a long time ago.

This new climate of apologising could be dangerous. Ever since Blair said sorry for the potato famine, and Clinton for slavery, everybody seems hell-bent on doing dreadful things, like biting people's ears off, just so that they can issue a fashionable apology. I can think of no other explanation for my imagining the local vicar would be amused by my murmuring "the body of Christ" when I proffered him a Pringle at a party recently. Thank goodness he is more forgiving than the Ayatollah: instead of excommunicating me he felt obliged to apologise himself for not being religious enough to take offence. I may have to convert to Catholicism - they do a very attractive line in penitence.



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## the leader page

## A patient plod down the road to compromise

Last year, this newspaper condemned the decision first to block the marchers at Drumcree and then to let them go ahead after a three-day stand-off between police and the Orange mob. Sir Hugh Annesley, then the chief constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, had given in to intimidation. It was a victory for might over the rule of law.

This year's return fixture was always going to be one of the stiffest tests faced by the new government. On the face of it, it seems that the Prime Minister and Mr Mowlam have decided to give in straightaway rather than wait three days. That may have the advantage of looking less weak, but is it not essentially the same cowardly decision? Certainly, something is very wrong when a police chief in the United Kingdom takes a decision on the grounds that it will subject a group of our citizens to "minimum violence". Those were the unfortunate words chosen by Sir Hugh's successor, Ronnie Flanagan, announcing the decision yesterday and apologising rather inelaborately for it to the residents of the Garvaghy Road. In fact, the main violence suffered by the Tricolour-waving, dustbin-lid-banging residents was the bruising of their nationalist sympathies. Mr Flanagan was inadvertently speaking of the real calculation behind the decision: that there would be violence in Northern Ireland whatever the

decision, but by allowing the march to go ahead there would be less violence than if it were re-routed. This was, in other words, a pragmatic judgement of the balance of terror.

The calculation that nationalist anger would be easier to contain than loyalist anger sends a dangerous message. It says to republican extremists that they are not capable of causing enough trouble – despite the fact that it is the IRA which seems most intent on pursuing violence and snubbing the Government's overtures. It also says to loyalists that the air of menace, cloaked in respectability, with which they got their own way at Drumcree last year will go on producing results.

But there is one important difference this year. Last year, Sir Hugh made a decision and was forced to change it by the threat of violence. This year, Mr Flanagan made a decision and it was carried through. The real outrage last year lay in the flouting of the law. To the extent that yesterday's decision was made only to pre-empt intimidation, it should be criticised. The hard question remains whether it was right initially to stop the march last year or to let it go ahead this year.

The question is difficult to answer partly because the march itself cannot possibly matter to anyone who does not invest it with its full tribal meanings. In any other part of the UK, who would care if an orderly crowd of people



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walked down a road wearing funny clothes and hats? But then, in any other part of the UK, if some of the people who lived in a road did say they found the funny clothes and hats offensive because they thought they were insulting to their religion or cultural identity, the police would persuade the parade to take a detour.

However, this is Northern Ireland, and most of the stuff about the right to march and the Battle of the Boyne and the injustice of Partition is just a smoke-screen to conceal the ugly fact that here are two groups of people who dislike and distrust each other. One

group thinks the right to march where they have always marched is central to their cultural identity, while the other thinks it cheapens and belittles theirs. Both are right, but neither can be allowed to prevail totally over the other. Yesterday, the balance was tipped too far in favour of the loyalists. But if the march had been re-routed against their will, it would have been tipped too far against them. That might only be fair, given the historic and enduring (but diminishing) slights suffered by the nationalists. But it would not be the basis for a lasting solution. A possible way forward was pro-

posed by Robert Sauliers, grand master of the Orange Order, who suggested that the loyalists should assert their right to march down the Garvaghy Road but should choose not to exercise it. At first blush, this sounds like the inverted logic of Catch-22. But it is time for the loyalists to make a crazy gesture, "a voluntary non-exercise of acknowledged rights" as John Bruton, the former Irish prime minister called it.

The key word is "voluntary", and a workable compromise would involve the Orangemen of Portadown making a large – even Christian – gesture. Judging by the hand-washing of the minister of Drumcree parish church yesterday, this will be difficult. He told BBC Radio that his responsibility ended at the door of his church, and that what his congregation got up to after the service was nothing to do with him. You can be a member of any denomination or none and find this interpretation of the teaching of the Bible perverse.

As ever, progress in Northern Ireland depends on the concept of consent, and consent is difficult to procure from tribes as implacably opposed as Northern Ireland's are. The early optimism engendered by Mr Blair's offer to Sinn Féin of a fresh start was soon dashed by renewed IRA violence. And last night's rioting looked like a slide backwards into fear and loathing.

But there is no alternative to patiently plodding on. Mr Blair and Ms Mowlam are heading in the right direction. The Prime Minister's apology over the Irish famine was designed to stroke nationalist feeling, while yesterday's decision does at least buy some breathing space in the long process of breaking down loyalist mistrust. Slowly, the political and economic incentives have to be put in place to reduce the rewards to extremism and increase those to compromise.

## Sharper than a serpent's tooth

Talk about skipping a generation. It has only just sunk in for most Conservatives. They have elected a leader who is 36. The average age of Tory party members is 65. On average, William Hague is young enough to be their son. And that, of course, means they are utterly out of touch with him. Imagine their horror on discovering that Mr Hague is apparently "living in sin" with his fiancée. They can't complain about "young people today", or go on about how in their day people used to have to wait till they got married, because by a quirk of their party rules they managed to find the only Tory in the country under the age of 50 and elect him leader.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Do single parents really want work?

Sir: You report that the Child Poverty Action Group are complaining that the £200m the Government is setting aside from the windfall tax to "enable" single parents to go out to work is "pitiful" (Report, 5 July). The pressure group arrived at this conclusion because, they say, when the sum is divided by the number of lone parents to be targeted it will be worth only £1.92 a week each. However, this assumes that Harriet Harman's oft-quoted figure of 90 per cent of single parents wanting to work is correct. The evidence for this is not good.

The figure quoted by Ms Harman comes from research commissioned by her department. Unfortunately, the findings are flawed: the survey respondents were asked a rather dumb, bald question about whether or not they "wanted" to work. There was no test of the validity of the answers with relevant follow-up questions. Consequently we do not know whether the single parents questioned had (as do many long-term unemployed people) unreasonable expectations about what wage they could command or what kind of job they could do. The researchers did not even ask an all-important question when assessing attachment to the labour market: "When did you last look for a job?"

According to the Labour Force Survey, the number of lone parents without a job who had looked for work at some time in the four weeks prior to interview and who were available to start a job in the two weeks following their interview was, in summer 1996, just 136,000. Since there are over 500,000 single parents on Income Support who are to be targeted it follows that fewer than three in 10 of them show any real evidence of wanting work enough to look for it.

PAUL ASHTON  
Eastbourne, East Sussex

## Editor under arrest in Iran

Sir: We would like to draw your readers' attention to the plight of Faraj Sarkoobi, chief editor of the Iranian literary review *Adineh*.

Mr Sarkoobi was arrested for demanding freedom of expression in Iran. He was held in detention for several months before being charged with espionage. We have now received uncorroborated reports that he has been sentenced to death. Mr Sarkoobi's situation is extremely critical and we urge that international pressure be brought to bear on the Iranian authorities to release him, immediately and unconditionally.

Given the President Elect's positive campaign in the recent presidential election and his promises to uphold freedom of expression and human rights in Iran we believe international pressure for Mr Sarkoobi's case would help to save his life.

SYBILLE BEDFORD  
LADY RACHEL BILLINGTON  
President Elect, English Centre of International PEN  
MORIS FARHI  
Chairman, Writers in Prison Committee, English PEN  
LADY ANTONIA FRASER  
RONALD HARWOOD  
President, International PEN  
FRANCIS KING  
Vice President, International PEN  
HAROLD PINTER



JOSEPHINE PULLEIN-THOMPSON  
President, English Centre of International PEN  
BERNICE RUBENS  
TOM STOPPARD  
RALEIGH TREVELYAN  
FAY WELDON  
and 38 others  
The English Centre of International PEN  
London SW3

## Rival visions of England

Sir: Clive Aslet's lament for the declining cultural traditions of England ("The waning of Middle England", 4 July) reveals perhaps more than he wishes.

There never has been a single cultural identity that all English people have possessed, no value that they have all shared. The only concrete example that Aslet identifies reveals the vacuity of his vision. He laments the loss of the cultural practice of the "whole nation" sitting down to watch the *Nine O'Clock News*.

Aslet says that historically the British "behaved politely towards one another. They did not urinate, spit or belch in public. They did not beg. They were tolerant of one another's peculiarities..." This Enid Blyton version of British history is not only fantastical, arrogant and pompous, it is also insulting, as the other side of the story is, of course, that non-British peoples do beg, urinate, belch, spit in public, and so on.

Aslet's lament for the "loss of quaint rituals" cannot be dismissed as a harmless plea for a lost idyllic age – it is an intolerant ideological

vision which justifies, and does not avoid (as he claims), the racism, homophobia and other forms of violence that have typified English culture. Taking pride in the nation's past is often merely sad, but it is also dangerous when that past is mythologised and "others" blamed for disrupting that idyll.

Dr PHILIP COLE  
Lecturer in Applied Philosophy  
Middlesex University  
London N17

Sir: Clive Aslet's article has articulated very clearly and in a measured way the valid concerns of many people at the rapid changes occurring in our society today. New Labour would do well to remember these concerns and think about the speed and nature of the changes it is proposing in its reforming zeal.

Mr Aslet's last paragraph refers to the lack of understanding of the Middle England perspective, which it is now fashionable to denigrate. Two examples spring to mind. The English will not be able to have a say in Scottish and Welsh devolution, although it will affect them as much as anyone else in this country. Also, the latest anti-burning Bill is a twofold attempt to discriminate against a sector of society, which would rightly generate huge opposition if those under attack were Muslims or Jews undertaking their religious practices.

New Labour should remember its pledge to the whole of society and not forsake tolerance.

JOHN WARD  
Stoke-by-Nayland, Suffolk

## Ian Greer an innocent man

Sir: I have read with interest your editorial (4 July) dealing with the report of the Committee on Standards and Privileges on "cash for questions".

It will be recalled that the original allegation, causing Ian Greer to sue for libel, was to the effect that certain MPs (notably Ian Hamilton and Tim Smith) had been paid cash for asking questions in the House of Commons. The cash was said to have been paid by Ian Greer, acting as a conduit for money from Mohamed Al Fayed.

The report states, in the case of both MPs: "There is no evidence to indicate that [the MP] received cash from Mr Al Fayed indirectly through Mr Ian Greer." Mr Greer, always maintained that he did not pay cash for questions and was backed by the Board of Ian Greer Associates (of which I was a non-executive director from 1991 to 1996). We believed his denial and the report vindicates him.

He has always agreed that some years ago he did pay commission on business referred to him by certain MPs. There was nothing illegal about this, and it was for MPs to declare such payments, not the responsibility of Mr Greer.

I hope that the media will now give some prominence to the fact that the report clears him of the "cash for questions" allegation. I hope so – but I doubt it.

MURIEL TURNER  
(Baroness Turner of Camden)  
London NW6

## Untimely referendums

Sir: The Government's defeat on Thursday in the House of Lords gives it a chance to reconsider its proposed dates for the Scottish and Welsh referendums – 11 and 25 September.

These are both Thursdays, during school term. They would therefore require the closure of many Scottish and Welsh schools for use as polling stations, and throw an extra burden of childcare on parents, especially working mothers. This would be a very poor advertisement for a government committed to education and to the interests of women and families.

The referendums should be held on a weekend, or if this is impossible, during the school holidays. A general move to weekend voting, as is practised by most of our European partners, would end unnecessary disruption and cost to education throughout the United Kingdom.

RICHARD HELLER  
London SW9

## Shock therapy

Sir: Oh dear. Oliver James ("Therapy on the airwaves", 5 July) doesn't seem to like psychiatrists very much. I can see no other reason for his patronising denigration of Dr Clare and other psychiatrists as manipulative biological reductionists.

He suggests that psychiatrists are

trained only to stupefy their patients with drugs and electricity into a state of conformity. This is rather like saying that psychotherapists are trained only to brainwash people into being like them. Both of these statements might be true if either profession were, as a matter of course, practised grossly unethically. However, my experience in the NHS suggests that most psychiatrists and psychologists do try, often with minimal resources, to promote the autonomy of their clients or patients.

Dr PHILIP TIMMS  
Senior Lecturer in Community Psychiatry  
Guys and St Thomas' UMDS  
London SE1

## Blame the Pope

Sir: Austin Pielou (5 July) seems unaware that Pope Adrian IV was English and that the idea of annexing Ireland was conceived by the Archbishop of Canterbury's secretary, John of Salisbury, after Canterbury lost all metropolitan rights over the see of Dublin when it opted to become an Irish bishopric in 1152.

John was dispatched as an envoy of Henry II to his fellow countryman Adrian to discuss this Irish Problem and bring the Irish to heel. Adrian, under the Donation of Constantine, was held to be lord of all the islands of the sea and he readily agreed that Henry II and all his successors should have the right to rule Ireland, although they did not invade till later.

The Irish, needless to say, were not consulted.

ARTHUR VALENTINE

## High price of fuel poverty

Sir: Your correspondents (4 July) are right to highlight the apparent contradiction in reducing energy prices in the Budget whilst also aiming at a 20 per cent reduction in carbon emissions. Few doubt that fossil-based energy prices will rise as they increasingly reflect the cost of the damage caused by this form of fuel. If price is to be the carbon abatement mechanism, then according to some economists it will need a tax rising to \$100 a barrel oil equivalent by 2010 to dampen demand for fossil energy to the level recommended by the UN IPCC Scientific Committee.

Meanwhile the Government is faced with the problem of the fuel-poor, mostly occupying the 12 million sub-standard energy-guzzling houses in England and Wales. In the short term the Chancellor had no alternative but to reduce VAT on domestic fuel to alleviate fuel poverty. However, the money that is now being allocated to housing should be targeted at refurbishing poor-quality homes to an energy efficiency standard of SAP 60 (government Standard Assessment Procedure). To put this into perspective, new homes have to achieve around SAP 75 whilst most of the sub-standard homes will be SAP 10-20. Houses that cannot be raised to this standard should be replaced with new-build.

In due course the EU will impose a carbon tax which will not only dampen demand for fossil-based energy, but also improve the cost-effectiveness of energy-efficient buildings and renewable energy. The first call on the proceeds of the tax should be to ensure that fuel poverty is consigned to history.

Professor PETER F SMITH  
Chairman, Royal Institute of British Architects' Environment and Planning Committee  
Sheffield

## Library hours

Sir: E Pallas (Letters, 2 July) seems to think we are out of tune with library users' needs, particularly in relation to opening hours. Our research shows that users do want to see longer opening hours – so do we, but we can't fit a quart into a pint pot.

To meet the opening hours that our readers desire, including extending evening and Sunday opening, costs would be in the region £800,000 a year. We are currently looking to see how this can be achieved.

Perhaps a way forward would be for libraries to become eligible for lottery funding. As E Pallas states, libraries have the potential and are positioned to play a greater role in people's daily lives.

FRANCES MANGAN  
Assistant Director  
(Libraries, Arts & Tourism)  
London Borough of Camden  
London WC1

## Major myth

Sir: Before the myth gets established in too many cuttings files, I must point out to Steve Boggan ("Why John Major did not go to Hong Kong", 2 July) that Mr Major was not at Lord's on the day following his election defeat. He was at the Oval – much nearer his native Brixton – watching Surrey defeat British Universities in the first round of the Benson and Hedges Cup.

MICHAEL LEAPMAN  
London SW8

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

سكرا من الامم



## Gay Pride's happy ending

When 250,000 people can celebrate their homosexuality they no longer need to do so, says Peter Tatchell

When the first Gay Pride March took place in July 1972, only 700 people – myself included – dared to come out and join the parade. On Saturday, 250,000 attended the Pride celebrations on Clapham Common. What a difference 25 years makes: the visibility and confidence of the gay community has grown enormously. Homophobic attitudes are well and truly on the wane, especially among young people.

But these successes, and expected future gains in the realm of legal rights, look set to create a curious paradox: gay emancipation will undermine gay identity and make gay pride redundant. I'm glad. Defeating homophobia and securing gay acceptance is bound to make differentiating between sexual orientations much less important. Once one form of sexuality is not deemed superior to the other, the need to police the difference disappears. The labels "heterosexual" and "homosexual" lose their significance, with no one caring who's gay and who's straight.

The importance of gay identity will decline because when queers cease to be victimised, same-sex desire will not require defending. All that will remain is gay identification to facilitate sex and socialising with people of the same orientation. The political and psychological importance of gay identity will be zero.

We can glimpse the beginnings of this post-gay era in the rise of mixed clubs, where queers and straights party together and the boundaries of sexual orientation are decidedly blurred. Homophobic barriers are tumbling elsewhere too: in the Boy Scouts, the House of Commons, the Metropolitan Police and, sooner or later, in the armed forces and the Church of England.

Considerable prejudice nevertheless remains, as evidenced by the ban on gays in the military, the denial of same-sex partnership rights, and the unequal

### The political importance of gay identity will be zero

age of consent. Because we are treated as second class citizens, we have to assert our right to be gay and show pride in our sexuality. But we also need the foresight to recognise that gay identity is an historically transient, culturally specific phenomenon, which has arisen in response to the needs of persecuted queer minorities in homophobic societies. It never existed, for example, in earlier eras in the many cultures where same-sex behaviour was regarded as normal and acceptable.

Once intolerance and inequality are overturned, as they eventually will be, the necessity to assert and affirm gayness will inevitably decline. The dissolution of gay identity in these circumstances would, oddly enough, be a measure of the success of the gay rights movement.

This prospect creates a new challenge for the gay community, but few seem ready to meet it. The idea of erasing the antithesis between queer and straight is very threatening to many homosexuals. They have become rather too attached to their gay identity. It defines everything about them. More than a mere sexual orientation, being gay nowadays offers a complete, alternative lifestyle. To these outcasts from heterosexual society, gay identity gives a sense of reassurance, defining their sense of personhood, place and purpose – even their taste in bottled lager and designer underwear!

These queers cling tenaciously to their sense of gayness, with all its connotations of invariable sexual difference, certainty and exclusivity. Anything that clouds the distinctions between straight and gay is deemed suspect and dangerous, which explains the frequent irrational gay hostility to bisexuality and bisexuals. Yet the maintenance of this gay-straight schism, by marking out homosexuals as distinct and devalued human beings, helps to sustain our second class status. It is not in the interest of lesbians and gays to perpetuate these sexual divisions. Our liberation depends on breaking down the barriers between sexualities.

There is, however, a catch. Because queerness is currently disparaged, gay people first have to assert the right to be different in order eventually to create a pluralistic culture where sexual difference ceases to matter. Normalising and legitimising the "otherness" of homosexuality is the precondition for abolishing homophobia. Only when sexual difference is fully accepted and valued will it cease to be important and consequently slide into oblivion.

When we reach this state of affairs, where gayness doesn't require defending, being gay will once again become a mere state of desire, not of consciousness. Surprise, surprise. Gay liberation ends the need for gay identity. Hurrah!



## Labour's Big Idea – will it really work?

by Polly Toynbee

**A** New Deal, "a National Crusade to harness the energy of the whole country", "the One Nation society in action". All these trip lightly off the tongue of Andrew Smith, eyes shining, burning with enthusiasm. He is the minister in charge of the Government's most exciting yet most difficult and expensive project – welfare to work. He has that missionary gleam, as if he can hardly sit still in his chair for the urge to dash into every teenager's bedroom, heave them out from under their desks and thrust a book, computer mouse or mop into their hands right now.

It was the Big Idea in the election campaign and the star turn in the Budget. All that lies ahead is the implementation, when we shall see if the fine words are matched with a fine programme. It starts next April – not long to put into place a colossal plan to take on 180,000 young people who have been out of work for more than six months and another 15,000 arriving every month thereafter. Does Andrew Smith lie awake at night wondering if this will be Labour's new groundnut scheme? Or by the next election will it have become established as the great missing link between school and work?

The Jeremiahs are already murmuring. Where are the thousands of brilliant new trainers and teachers to provide this "high quality programme"? It'll just be poor-quality YTS all over again. Why make it compulsory, alienating the young instead of inspiring them? Won't employers abuse the £60-a-week job subsidy? "Quality", Andrew Smith keeps saying over and over again, "is the key to everything." He bans anyone from breathing the killer word "scheme". No young person ever again wants to be on a "scheme". No, they will not be herded into mass programmes regardless of their skills, wishes and problems. No, no one will be sent on a time-wasting make-work project just to improve the numbers. Nor will the recalcitrant be draconian into good programmes, sapping the morale of the enthusiastic.

What are the threats to quality in his New Deal? First, the numbers – the need to hit a high target, churning the long-term unemployed off the register for a few months in a quick fix, only to see them return again, re-labelled as short-term unemployed. But the target the Government has set itself – 250,000 into jobs in four years – is relatively easy to reach. Everyone expects it to hit it. That means the £3.5bn should be able to pay for a high-quality service.

The other threat is from the Treasury. Does

it want a pay-back? Treasury short-termism, its mania for hard outcome figures, has driven many of the best projects to destruction. Only a few weeks ago, Andrew Smith was claiming that the wonder of welfare-to-work is that it would create a "virtuous cycle" where money would flow back into Treasury coffers for everyone found a job. But good training is expensive. The hard cases – children from care, the homeless, the addicts, the illiterate and depressed – need a lot to get back on to their feet. So the best outcome may be awkwardly intangible and certainly not cashable. This is a civic good, not a cash-cow. There was a reassuring hint at a press conference last week that David Blunkett no longer expects his New Deal

**'The crucial ingredient is individual attention ... providing a counsellor to follow each person through a year'**

to make any money, which makes high quality more likely.

If it all works brilliantly, how past Conservative employment ministers will gnash their teeth. For they have thought of all these ideas before, but introduced them in a such a piecemeal muddle that it is highly doubtful that many employment service staff let alone the unemployed could make head or tail of them. For there is a plethora of surprisingly generous schemes already on offer. When I looked into it, I was frankly astounded at what is already there.

If you are currently unemployed, you could be offered a portfolio of no fewer than 22 different nationwide schemes when you walk into a Job Centre. In some areas you might get another four pilot projects as well.

Labour plans a four-month "Gateway" period into its New Deal with an individual mentor to see each person into basic skills programmes, ability tests and job interviews. Now we have a hotchpotch of Job Plan Seminars, Job Review Workshops, Job Search Assistance, Restart, Workwise, One to One – each designed to call the unemployed for interviews and pep-talks at varying stages. But what the system has lacked is a single counsellor designated to the case of each person.

There is already one scheme with a distinctly familiar ring – Workstart, which gives any employer a £60 subsidy for six months to take on someone who is long-term unemployed. So far, this is only a pilot with some 100,000 people, but ministers know research shows disappointing results. Far from employers rushing to abuse it by sacking staff to employ the unemployed instead, companies in areas where it operates have not been keen to try it. That is why Gordon Brown and Blunkett have gone out of their way to shout loud for help from large national companies, with the Chancellor's big breakfast for bosses trying to draw in the top brass. Will the appeal of a One Nation crusade give this scheme the kick-start the Tories never gave it?

The mystery about all these employment schemes is why the Tories hid them under a bushel. Was it ambivalence about daring to admit their own generosity? For instance, why didn't they trumpet the Job Finder's Grant? Anyone going back to work after two years of unemployment gets a cash grant of £200, no questions asked. And where was the publicity for their Work Trials? The unemployed can go on drawing all their benefits for the first 15 days in work, taking the risk out of taking a job if it doesn't work out. Has everyone heard of Job Match – where unemployed people can claim £50 a week cash, non-means-tested, for six months if they take a part-time job? Do they know they can get a £300 training voucher that they can spend on anything, including driving lessons, to make them more employable? And there is a clutch more benefits and bonuses. In other words, a great deal of the most generous and useful parts of Labour's New Deal is already essentially in place. How the Tories bungled it!

What was missing was the crucial ingredient – individual attention to each person. Instead, the employment service was cut back. Providing a counsellor for each young person to follow them through for maybe a year will be expensive, as will all the remedial programmes for the difficult cases.

In the end, how will we judge the success of it all? Partly by word of mouth: young people will know and they will be harsh critics. But the toughest test will come when the economy turns downwards. Launching this kite into a high economic wind, it will fly because so many people are flooding back to work anyway. But if the wind drops in a couple of years and thousands more swell the register, what then? When it will be needed most, will the Government have the nerve to put more money in, or as happened in Sweden, will funds be spread too thin and all that quality seep away? Until then, all the signs are good.

## Even cars on Mars put men in a spin

**T**his is nirvana for us space guys, one of the scientists involved in the Mars programme said at the weekend. Not, I think, because we are near to solving the mysteries of the red planet. No, really it's because he gets to drive the ultimate boy's toy – the Sojourner Rover. Chick magnets don't come much finer than this vehicle, which is driven by a virtual reality headset by a human on earth. What more could a boy ask for? I'm only surprised it doesn't have the modest kind of number plate once seen on a white Lamborghini – "WOW1".

It's not that women don't appreciate a wonderfully designed car, although I have to admit most leave me cold. But I that blame on my father (twice) despite tears, bribes and dropping his offspring off half a mile from school, insisted on driving a

Lada throughout my formative years) rather than an innate gender difference. It's that men, unlike women, insist on treating fast cars with such reverence. Why do they have to wear such a serious expression while discussing the "driving experience" (the school run) of a high performance car? Why is it that the more impractical for day-to-day life a car is, the better it is?

Last week, Canary Wharf, where *The Independent* is based, hosted a motor show. You could tell it was going on by the suspicious absence of male staff from their desks and the incoherent conversations afterwards. In the lobby, there were cars costing the price of a one-bedroom flat – in London. Men drooled over bonnets, and in a quick and highly unscientific poll I conducted, 95 per cent of the men said they would buy a Porsche, Mer-

cedes or BMW if they won the lottery. The women said: "Oh God, men still don't think they can pull just because they've got a nice car, do they?"

"Cars are still phallic," admitted Gary Morgan, a support analyst admiring a Porsche 944. "It would be marvellous to have something like this. What an investment."

But it was the £26,000 Renault Spider that was the best "bird puller", said Andrew Bluns, a computer consultant. Not, he added hastily, that he would be interested for that reason. He was married.

This is a car that, after simple adjustments to the suspension, can be a racing car. Apart from its glorious design and magnificent horsepower, the Spider boasts no hood, no heating and no storage space at all. So while it may be very good at attracting the chicks, you can do very little

with them once they are there without risking osteoporosis bills for the rest of your life. And they'll probably never speak to you again because their hair's been ruined in the rain and they've frozen to death.

The Sojourner isn't much better – it's the size of a microwave oven, it only travels at 0.02 mph, and there is a huge time lag between telling the Sojourner to turn left and it actually doing so. The batteries run down in a week, the kids wouldn't fit into it and the dust on Mars will kill any perm. Men will adore it. And so probably our first contact with alien intelligence – a giant step for mankind – will be a tiny green man saying "Fwooor, check out the engine on that baby. How much did that knock you back?"

Glenda Cooper

## Not half bad at English, considering ...

**I**n the summer months Britain becomes home for crowds of foreigners seeking a cool and damp change from the blazing sunshine at home. When they arrive here, they discover an unsuspected hazard: the English language. The trouble with the English language, many of them complain to me, is that it is not spoken the same way that it is taught at home, and is full of phrases like "Don't mind if I do" and "Brass monkey weather", which are quite inexplicable.

So I have asked our visiting language expert, Professor Wordsmith, to deal with as many inquiries as he can before the money runs out. All yours, Prof.

**What does it mean, this "Don't mind if I do" expression?**  
Prof Wordsmith writes: Many expressions in English are based on understatement. We do not like to exaggerate, so we tend to exaggerate by under-estimating. When it is freezing cold, we say, "Not exactly warm, is it?" When we like something passionately, we say, "Not half bad". When we want to do something quite badly, we say "Don't mind if I do".

**How do you mean, "when we want to do something badly"? Does that mean you intend to do it badly? Or that it is bad to want it?**

Prof Wordsmith writes: The latter. We feel it is wrong to express emotion, so when we say we want something, we say we want it badly – we are apologising as we say it. No other language has the equivalent expression. I'm sorry to say.

**Talking of being "sorry", is that why the British say "I'm sorry" when they haven't heard what you have said?**

Prof Wordsmith writes: Yes. We are apologising for not having heard you.

**How charming. Is there any sincerity in the expression?**

Prof Wordsmith writes: Not a bit. Very often what British people say is totally at odds with what they mean.

**Could you give an example?**

Prof Wordsmith writes: Certainly. When someone says "Do you mind if I smoke?" or "Do you mind if I open a window?", they are not really asking you if you mind. They are announcing what they are about to do. In fact, the expression "Do you mind?" can be used by itself, but what it means is "Stop doing that or I'll punch you".

**I see. Are there any more examples of British**



Miles Kingston

**euphemism or understatement that I should know about?**  
Prof Wordsmith writes: Millions. If someone says a film or play they don't like, they say it is "interesting". If someone says you have lost weight, it means you are looking too thin. If someone says in a restaurant that a course was "disappointing", it means it was really awful ...  
**I have noticed that the British use the word "awful" a lot. What do they mean by it?**  
Prof Wordsmith writes: Very little. "I'm awfully sorry to hear that", means "Oh, really?". To say of someone "He's awfully nice" means that he is just tolerable, considering ...

**Considering what?**  
Prof Wordsmith writes: Considering how horrible he is. "Considering ..." is one of those expressions with which the British end a sentence in mid-air, leaving a row of dots like air bubbles on a pond ...  
**Are there many expressions like that?**

Prof Wordsmith writes: Millions.

**Such as?**  
Prof Wordsmith writes: When a British person ends a sentence with, "Know what I mean?" or "as the bishop said to the actress", or "give or take", or "all things being equal", or "depending ..."

**Thank you. Oh, one final question. When it says outside a hotel in Britain "Private Functions Catered For", is that a euphemism for "Toilets"?**

Prof Wordsmith writes: No. Prof Wordsmith will be back soon with more help for foreigners trying to learn English.

**Students of misprints in the Radio Times would have enjoyed an entry in last week's South West edition. In a TV drama called "Who Killed John Cabot?", the part of the Inquisitor was played by a fine male actor called Christian Rodska. Not according to the Radio Times, who sex-changed him into Christina Rodska.**

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## obituaries / gazette

## George Katsaros

Hey, when I die, what will they say?  
Hey, a poet's dead!  
Hey, a poet-head, a night-bird's died!

These are the opening verses (freely translated from the Greek) of the song "Greek Delight" with which George Katsaros inaugurated his recording career in America in June 1977. A serious disjuncture between the bravado expressed in his art and his behaviour in real life appears to have ensued, to judge by the generous tributes from Greek communities around the world following his eventual death, exactly 70 years later.

Indeed, since metropolitan Greeks finally discovered his music in 1987, Katsaros became revered not just for his irrepressible zest for life and indefatigable musicianship, but as a personification of a simplicity and spontaneity supposedly lost in the modern state of Greece, but apparently preserved in the time-warped of diaspora communities. His quaint linguistic usage in Greek, an engaging testimony to his long absence from the motherland, and his old-world piety, to which he attributed his longevity, completed the icon of this pristine bard of the modern Greek diaspora.

The stage-name "Katsaros" (meaning "curly") derived from his bushy black hair, which became a shock of white hair in later life and was frequently restrained with a hairnet. His real name was George Theologitis, son of Nicholas Theologitis and Anna Stoupi, and he was born at Ayia Marina on the Cycladic island of Amorgos in 1888, according to the birth certificate, which was later reissued, authenticated and translated, and which he cheerfully allowed visitors to photocopy.

The remainder of his biography is almost exclusively based on the colourful but often contradictory oral narratives of the voluble centenarian him-

self, and many dates and details are in conspicuous need of verification. There is, however, a more or less coherent core to the various versions of the catalogue of wanderings and notable encounters, which commence with a move from Amor-



Katsaros: bard of the diaspora

gos to Athens after the death of his father, to take up residence in the royal palace – in the servants' quarters, that is, for his mother had secured employment there as a cook. Katsaros supplemented the family income by performing in various seaside taverns of Piraeus and Faliron, singing and playing the guitar, which he had taken up at the age of seven under the influence of his paternal grandfather, a noted musician and roisterer of Amorgos.

By the time Katsaros eventually persuaded his émigré uncle Dimitrios to nominate him as an immigrant to the United States (in 1909, or 1913, or 1915), he had acquired a wide repertoire of Greek songs and promptly found work in the

Greek cabarets of downtown New York. He further claimed to have been recruited to record Greek songs for RCA Victor at the Camden studios in New Jersey as early as 1919, eight years before his earliest extant recording was made.

Katsaros's autobiographical narratives invariably dwell on the veritable odyssey which he undertook between the wars around Greek communities scattered over five continents. He claimed to have entertained expatriate Greeks from Canada to Chile, Bombay to Burma, Cape Town to Cairo, and to have donated some of the proceeds of his performances to Greek church- and school-building projects, notably in Australia, whose Greek communities he recalled touring twice in the 1920s.

He would also regale his interviewers with anecdotes about celebrities he met on his travels, ranging from "Alekis Kaponis" (his name for Al Capone) to Andrei Segovia, from President Roosevelt to Riorita, the Mexican dancer with whom he allegedly featured in two silent films and whom he almost married in the late 1920s. (He lost her to leukemia during a cooling-off period, part of which he spent in Greece, and never contemplated marriage again.)

By the outbreak of the Second World War, Katsaros had recorded some 50 Greek songs in America, many of which have recently been reissued in Greece. He resumed recording sporadically in the 1940s and 1950s, but in the post-war era seems to have been upstaged by visiting musicians from Greece and by imported recordings, so that most of his claimed 120 songs appear to have been lost. What survives on gramophone records is generally quite diverse, ranging from "heavy" rebetika (Greek Blues, such as "Greek Delight") to "light" European-style popular songs, a few

of which satirise contemporary American mores, such as women wearing trousers (ironically styled "pyjamas"), and the politics of the Depression period.

While stressing his versatility as a guitarist and vocalist, Katsaros most proudly declared himself to be the patriarch of the Piraeus-style rebetika. Indeed his career both antedated and survived that of the most illustrious early exponent of the genre, Markos Vamvakaris (1905-72), also a Cycladic islander, and rebetika was the genre which triggered Katsaros's belated discovery in Greece.

For it was during the early 1970s, when veterans such as Vamvakaris were dying in rapid succession, that devotees of rebetika were first introduced to Katsaros's seemingly primitive performance-style as preserved on a small number of rare American records belonging to secretive collectors and tantalisingly broadcast in excerpts on pirate radio stations in Greece. Some zealots were intrigued into fabricating a biography of Katsaros to match the suggestive recordings, for a Greek National Radio programme of 1976, which included a somewhat premature account of his demise.

In the meantime, Katsaros had put an end to 40 years of wanderings in 1958, settling in Tarpon Springs, a seaside town in Florida for which he had retained a particular affection since his first visit in 1919, because of its sizeable community of expatriate Aegean islanders and its physical resemblance to Greek island ports. He continued to entertain this community at weddings and festivals, in recognition of which he was given the Florida Folk Heritage Award in 1990. It was here that Katsaros was finally tracked down by Athenian rephotographers in 1987, and other distinctions were conferred on him in due course. These included the medals of the cities

of Athens, Piraeus and Salonica, in whose municipal theatres he gave concerts during his much-publicised return to Greece after 60 years' absence in 1988, and again in 1995 at the invitation of the Greek Ministry of Culture.

During this period Greek governments were increasingly discovering the virtues (and lobbying potential) of the estimated 40 per cent of the Greek nation resident outside Greece, and, on the eve of his 107th birthday, Katsaros returned to Greece in December 1995 to perform in a concert for delegates to the inaugural meeting of the World Council of Greeks Abroad in Salonica, which was beamed by satellite to all quarters of the globe. With a splendid sense of occasion, Katsaros commenced his medley of rebetika songs with some verses about police maltreatment of a hashish-smoker; the assembled dignitaries responded with amused indulgence.

The significance of George Katsaros to Greek culture surpasses his rhetorical value as an icon of the resilience of global Hellenism. He was the last representative of a school of Greek-American musicians who pioneered professional Greek musicianship in the age of rampant commodification of musical performance and who collectively acted as a catalyst for developments in Greek popular music such as the rise of the bouzouki and the Piraeus-style rebetika in pre-war Greece. Scholarly biographies of Katsaros and his colleagues, based on painstaking analysis of sources such as the Greek-language press of the diaspora, as well as oral history, are overdue.

Stathis Gauntlett

**George Theologitis (George Katsaros), singer, born Ayia Marina, Amorgos 22 December 1888; died Tarpon Springs, Florida 22 June 1997.**



A tenacious ambition for perfection in her work and in her private life: Scott in the early 1930s

## Jean Scott

An actress whose career spanned six decades, Jean Scott was also a distinguished teacher, notably for 16 years at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art under the directorships of Sir Kenneth Barnes and John Fernald.

She was born Winifred Walkinshaw to a family, Scots in origin, which had been settled in Devon since the 18th century. Although her parents were not Catholic, they sent their daughter to an Ursuline Convent School, from where she left bent on a career in the theatre. Her reluctant father achieved a compromise: she could become an actress but first she must train as a teacher of drama. She came through all three stages of her LRAM exams with ease.

It was as a member of the Ashley Dukes Company that the career of Jean Scott – her stage name – took off. Ashley Dukes (1885-1959) became known, both in Britain and in the United States, as a dramatist and theatre critic. In the Twenties and Thirties he was also a theatre manager of distinction.

Most new plays performed in the West End between the wars were light-hearted confessions, often well-written but designed to meet the needs of both the Lord Chamberlain's rigid censorship and of a public anxious to escape for a while from the bleak economic climate of the times. The Ashley Dukes Company, however, gave performances of outstanding plays which were often considered non-commercial. It was respected as a training ground for young actors, and was especially famous for its presentation of foreign plays, sometimes adapted (e.g. Lion Feuchtwanger's *Jew Siss*) by Dukes himself. In addition it was a cradle for modern English verse-drama, by such playwrights as TS. Eliot, Christopher Fry and Ronald Duncan – and gave the first London performance of Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral*.

In 1933 it acquired its own premises, the Mercury, a small, well-equipped, theatre in Notting Hill, which it shared with the Ballet Rambert, recently founded by Dukes's wife, Marie Rambert. Scott's early career flourished in Dukes's company, with its emphasis on poetic drama, and her experience there informed her work in the theatre and in the classroom for many years to come.

Jean Scott went to Rada in 1943, working for the last 12 years of his 50-year directorship under Sir Kenneth Barnes. Here was a great meeting of minds. Under his "strict but kindly" rule, Rada had grown to become a world-renowned centre of excellence. Barnes's system was both straightforward and flexible. Students joined at any time during the academic year. They were streamed initially according to their apparent ability and, later, according to their attainment; anyone who did not come up to scratch was kept down until they made the grade, those who were judged to be wanting in ability or in application, received a letter of dismissal.

This form of grouping gave rise to an interesting mix of students in each class: near, though not exact, contemporaries of varied experience came together in a way which would not have been possible in other circumstances. For instance, Scott might teach a class including young aspirants such as Albert Finney, Peter O'Toole and Richard Briers, although each had entered Rada at different times.

Scott maintained a happy atmosphere in her class, underpinned by firm discipline. Fun and humour had their place, but a student was given "time out" if he submerged learning in an excess of levity, to be readmitted only when he recovered his equilibrium. Barnes succeeded in 1955 by John Fernald. Fernald's approach was entirely different: he brought in all his new students together each September, at the beginning of the academic year. Of necessity, the intake was drastically reduced. His aim was to go for quality. Scott's experience, her adaptable nature and her great ability, enabled her to cope well with the immense differences between the two philosophies. As a teacher she was now at the top of her profession. Teaching around 90 hours a term at Rada, she also took private pupils in voice-work and drama. She frequently completed a 12-hour working day, and took little time off for meals.

None the less, she managed to combine teaching with her two other great roles in life – those of wife and mother. In 1939 she had married James McKerrall of Hillhouse, 14th Lord of Hillhouse, a captain in the Army; their son, Charles, was born two years later. This was a time when there were few role models for the working wife. Her adaptability enabled her to manage the delicate balance between these "lives", al-

though she used to say, "Were I unconscious, I could still do my work."

There was a chance to change this gruelling pattern when her son grew up. She then left Rada, in 1959, to concentrate not only on her home life and her private pupils but also to return to her first great love – acting. She commuted between London and her husband in Ireland, until his death in 1964. She compensated for his loss by hard work and indulging her passions for riding, tennis, bridge and reading. She had an enduring love of Ireland, and was recently awarded honorary membership of the Knights of the Golden Chain (Naith Nask).

The conjunction Wynn (from Winifred) appeared in her name at this period; to avoid confusion with another actress of the same name, she remained registered with Equity as Jean Wynn Scott for the rest of her life. Scott's career in the Sixties was a blend of teaching, theatre and film-work as well as television appearances in plays and various series of the day: *No Hiding Place*, *Z Cars* and *Crossroads*, amongst others. She also did voice-overs for television advertisements, which not only gave her experience in a new discipline but provided her with the opportunity to practise different dialects, including that of her native Devon, which she got up to scratch for Hovis.

She worked with special pleasure with Franco Zeffirelli on his 1968 film version of *Romeo and Juliet*, one of several ventures which took her abroad. Later she was involved in the production of *The Devil's Disciple* which opened the new Shaw Theatre in London in 1971.

Jean Scott rated kindness above all other virtues: kindness, compassion, vulnerability and artistic sensitivity were combined in her. These gentler attributes were offset by a tenacious ambition for perfection in her work and in her private life. There was a restless, impatient side to her nature which compelled her to look forward rather than back.

She died peacefully during the afternoon of 15 May at her home, 164 years before, her great actor-husband Edmund Keam.

Janet Woodward

**Winifred Walkinshaw (Jean Scott), actress and teacher, born Plymouth, Devon 2 December 1905; married 1939 James McKerrall of Hillhouse, 14th Lord of Hillhouse (died 1964; one son); died Northwood, Middlesex 15 May 1997.**

## George Sweet

George Sweet was a figurative painter in the realistic and painterly Anglo-French tradition. He was widely travelled and widely read, with many interests: he could, indeed, have become an ornithologist, a linguist or a classicist.

He was born in 1909. As a boy his devotion to at least two of these interests was apparent. He was working as a medical student when he heard that Tonks, the formidable Slade Professor, was to retire in two years, and he switched over to the Slade School, for his ambition had always been to be a painter. At the Slade he was a fellow student with William Coldstream and Claude Rogers, who became a lifelong friend.

A period of travel in Europe followed, during which, as a natural linguist, he became fluent in the languages he loved – French, Spanish and Catalan. The outbreak of civil war in Spain brought this fertile period to an end and he returned to England to paint and teach.

His lifelong passion for ornithology resulted in his becoming an accepted authority on raptors, in particular the honey-buzzard and osprey. He con-

tributed on these subjects to the standard work *Birds of the Western Palearctic* (the first of whose encyclopaedic volumes appeared in 1977). Very late in life, in spite of failing health, he was still prepared to go on bird-watching expeditions with a friend in the New Forest, and looked forward to such outings with undiminished enjoyment.

In quite another field, he gave much of his time in post-war years to the International Association of Plastic Art (IAPA), later IAA, part of Unesco) as spokesman for the visual arts. But his teaching career was the main distraction from his studio from 1938 to 1960. As the head of the Fine Art department at the West of England College of Art in Bristol he had considerable responsibility and influence, bringing a wide and cosmopolitan experience to his students: not many art teachers would have been able to tell them of a meeting with Bonnard, for instance. He retired early, feeling that art schools were changing in ways he was not in sympathy with, and from then on was able to devote himself to his painting.

When he left his study table,

littered with papers and books, to go into his painting room – into which few people were admitted – he became a painter who worked with concentration and humility towards a complete "realisation" of his subject, a process based on exact observation of nuances of colour and tone (precision of drawing being taken for granted as essential).

With advancing years, far from relaxing or becoming repetitious, his painting became more expansive, and he embarked on a series of large figure paintings. Those who saw these late works at the Browne and Darty gallery in London – an autumnal harvest – will remember the grasp of solid forms bathed in light, the sense of air circulating round them, the unrelenting realism. Three were bought for the Saatchi collection; this must have caused Sweet some very amusement, as he had never made much concession to the marketing of his work, or the building of a reputation, seeming to prefer keeping his canvases under his eye in the studio.

The high standards he always stood for would at times result in a mildly professorial or didactic manner – a questioning



A fresh response to things seen: Sweet by Rachel Hamming Bray

eye, a tendency to correct his friends' French accents – but it was transformed in a moment with an infectious enthusiasm and pleasure at something seen or read. To go round an exhibition with him was to share in this absorption and in his fresh response to things seen, which

stayed with him until the very end of his long life.

Bernard Dunstan

**George Ernest Sweet, artist, born London 20 November 1909; married Audrey Hamman (died 1975; one daughter); died Bristol 29 June 1997.**

## Patrick Gardiner

Patrick Gardiner, a Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, for over 30 years, was a philosopher whose wide general culture and love of the arts informed everything he wrote.

He was especially interested in, and knowledgeable about, painting. He himself painted, and was proud of the fact that his daughter Vanessa became a successful painter, but he also had a deep appreciation of literature and music. His writings are accessible to the general reader, and his choice of subjects, being unaffected by contemporary fashion in philosophy, reflected only his personal interests. He was the least competitive of men.

One of his interests was history, which he had read as an undergraduate at Christ Church, Oxford, before embarking on philosophy. His first book is entitled *The Nature of Historical Ex-*

planation (1961). His reasoned rejection of extremist, monistic theories of history is a pleasure to read, and demonstrates his moderation, clarity, and his ability to write elegantly.

His book on Schopenhauer (1963) did a good deal to rehabilitate this neglected philosopher, and remains an indispensable critical guide to his thought. It may have been Schopenhauer's intense interest in the arts which led Gardiner to make him an object of study. He provides a masterly appreciation of Schopenhauer's contribution to philosophy while retaining a critical stance. Discipleship was never a feature of Gardiner's personality.

*Kierkegaard* (1988) is again devoted to a philosopher who, although considered one of the founders of existentialism, is somewhat outside the mainstream of Western philosophical

thought. In addition, Gardiner edited two anthologies: *Theories of History* (1959), and *Nineteenth Century Philosophy* (1969).

He came from a family which was deeply concerned with the arts. He was educated at Westminster School, where he was a contemporary of the philosophers David Pears and Richard

Wollheim, and also of Hugh Lloyd-Jones, who became Regius Professor of Greek at Oxford. Gardiner served for three years in Italy and North Africa during the Second World War and, in 1949, became a lecturer in philosophy at Wadham College, Oxford. In 1952, he became a Fellow of St Antony's, and then transferred to Magdalen in 1958, where he was a notably sensitive teacher. He was made an Emeritus Fellow of Magdalen upon his retirement in 1989.

Those lucky enough to know Gardiner will sorely miss him. He was a wonderfully generous host and an accomplished raconteur, and displayed an ironic sense of humour. He was modest and self-deprecating, and extremely sensitive to the feelings of others. When I had occasion to consult him about a book I was writing in which Schopenhauer figured, he pointed out my er-

rors in the most tactful way possible, so that I came away enriched with new insights rather than feeling stupid. He was one of those rare people whom one can genuinely call good.

When my wife and I moved to Oxford in 1974, Patrick and Susan Gardiner quickly became our friends. Their beautiful house in Wytham, with its lovely garden, became one of the places in Oxford we most enjoyed visiting. Many others felt likewise. No couple could have had a wider circle of devoted friends.

Anthony Storr

**Patrick Lancaster Gardiner, philosopher, born 17 March 1922; Tutor in Philosophy, Magdalen College, Oxford 1958-89; Fellow 1958-89 (Emeritus); FBA 1985; married 1955 Susan Booth (two daughters); died Oxford 24 June 1997.**

## Births, Marriages &amp; Deaths

## BIRTHS

EGAN: Niall Michael Joseph, born 6 July to Patrick Egan and Siân Granville, and a brother for Grace Helena.

**Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS** may be telephoned to 0171-253 2611 or faxed to 0171-253 2019, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

## Birthdays

Mr Michael Ancram MP, former government minister, 52; Sir John Gilbert Brown, publisher, 81; Mr Pierre Cardin, fashion designer, 75; Mr David Faber MP, 36; Lt-Gen Sir Ian Hirst, co-ordinator, 87; Mr Michael Howard, former MP and Home Secretary, 56; Mr Tony Jackson, golfer, 53; Mr Gian Carlo Menotti, composer, 86; Mr Alessandro Nannini, racing driver, 38; Mr Bill

## ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen and the Prince of Wales will attend the 100th anniversary of the birth of the late Queen Victoria at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 24 June. The Duke of Edinburgh will attend the 100th anniversary of the birth of the late Queen Victoria at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 24 June. The Duke of York will attend the 100th anniversary of the birth of the late Queen Victoria at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 24 June.

Oddie, actor, comedian and ornithologist, 56; The Hon Sir Steven Runciman, historian, 94; Mr Ringo Starr, drummer, 37; Sir Richard Turnbull, former Governor General, Kenya, 88; General Sir Michael Walker, Commander-in-Chief, Land Command, 53.

## Anniversaries

Births: Lion Feuchtwanger, novelist and playwright, 1884; Marc Chagall,

painter and designer, 1887. Deaths: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, writer, 1930; Today is the Feast Day of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Saints Eithelburga, Ercongota and Swithrida, St Felix of Naples, St Hedda of Winchester, St Placidius and St Pantanus.

## Lectures

Victoria and Albert Museum: Elizabeth James, "Poetry in Artists' Books", 2.30pm.

## Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Regiment moves the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, London, in the morning. The Band of the Household Cavalry moves the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, London, in the morning. The Band of the Household Cavalry moves the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, London, in the morning.

The following notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the *All England Law Reports*.

## Children

*R v London Borough of Lambeth, ex p Cadeil*, QBD Crown Office List (Connell J) 9 June 1997. The words of s 24 of the Children Act 1989 were clear in that a person who qualified for advice and assistance meant a person "within the area of the authority", and that that phrase was not to be read as referring back to the period when the qualifying person was still a child. Accordingly a

## CASE SUMMARIES

7 July 1997

local authority which had sent a child to a foster home in the area of another authority was not responsible for giving advice and assistance when the child reached the age of 18.

*Stephen Cobb (Herman & Herman, Solicitors) for the applicant; Anthony Cottle (Stembridge Reed Taylor & Gill) for Lambeth.*

## Road traffic

*DPF v Gey*, QBD Div Ct (Simon Brown LJ, Garland J) 17 June 1997.

## Tax

*Wild v Cnamman* (Inspector of Taxes: CA (Beldam LJ, Millett LJ, Otton LJ) 13 June 1997.

An individual taxpayer is disqualified from entitlement to business expansion relief under s 291(1)(c) of the Taxes Act 1988 if he is connected with the company in question "at any time in the relevant period". That meant that he had to be unconnected with the company for the whole of the relevant period of five years from incorporation of the company. The taxpayer in person; Timothy Brennan (Inland Revenue Solicitor) for the Crown.

1520 من الاموال



# Simpson finds golden opportunity to outline grand strategy for GEC

George Simpson, recruited to lead General Electric Co in the post-Weinstock era, has a golden opportunity to explain his grand strategy this week. The nation's electronics giant is due to produce its yearly results; they are expected to be little changed at just over £1bn. But a raft of exceptional charges could distort the picture, pushing the figure to around £800m.

Under the 35-year rule of Lord Weinstock, GEC grew from a modest electrical business to its present, near-£11bn capitalisation. There were some spectacular takeover bids (and battles) along the way such as Associated Electrical Industries and English Electric in the 1960s with names like Ferranti, Plessey and VSEL gathered in subsequent years. Although he has chopped and rationalised Lord Weinstock has left GEC with a rather curious structure. GEC Marconi, its defence business,

is the only important operation in full ownership. Other main profit-centres are partly owned like the Horpoint and Creta consumer goods side where GEC has 50.5 per cent of the capital. The group has accumulated and lovingly nursed one of the biggest cash piles in British industry, now standing at a cool £2.3bn.

Mr Simpson arrived a year ago from what is now LucasVarity. There are growing signs he has looked and, in his mind, decided the direction he wants to take. Next will come the action: the reshaping and streamlining of the sprawling, even rambling, giant which, despite its dominant presence on the domestic front, is still overshadowed by the likes of Siemens of Germany and ABB, the Swedish-Swiss group.

It seems that many of the partly-owned companies will be sold or go into full GEC ownership. Deals with Siemens are likely.

Before the French elections swept the Socialists into power Mr Simpson was intent on merging GEC Marconi with the French group Thomson-CSF of France. But the poll result put paid to such ambitions.

The French setback gave a new lease of life to one of the stock market's most bewildered takeover stories - a GEC merger with British Aerospace. The two have had talks; they nearly reached a conclusion when BAe looked a crippled company in 1993 with its shares nose-diving to 112p.

This time round many are convinced the old merger tale will enjoy the ring of truth. And they believe Mr Simpson is clearing the decks for such an eventuality.

In the past month there has been something of a boardroom merry-go-round. And Lord Prior, long-time chairman and close ally of Lord Weinstock, has announced he will depart in March.

## STOCK MARKET WEEK

### DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year



GEC watchers believe the most significant move occurred on Budget day when, while the stock market's attention was focused on Gordon Brown, it

was announced that David Newland, very much part of the old guard, had quit as finance director.

His decision to go just ahead of the figures is surprising. Could it mean the results will be hit even harder than expected by provisions? Or is it another sign the deck is being cleared for that BAe deal?

There is, after all, a strong case to be made for a GEC/BAe merger.

It always seemed that in the Weinstock years GEC was happy to negotiate with BAe when it was flying high; once it got to a position of strength it was less keen on the deal. Perhaps Mr Simpson is more sympathetic to a merger with

a much more muscular, although still much smaller, group.

This month GEC shares have performed strongly, even shrugging off the impact of the ever more powerful pound. In what can only be described as a highly volatile, topsy-turvy market the electronic giant's performance indicates the expectation that Mr Simpson will have something rather more interesting than dull, little-changed figures to talk about tomorrow.

The blue chip reaction to the Budget, with Footsie romping to new peaks, has clearly been generated by something more than relief over the Brown measures.

Desperate trading resulting from derivative operations seems largely responsible.

For the second and third times it has all been a non-event. The FTSE 100 index, covering the 250 shares immediately outside Footsie, and

the FTSE SmallCap index have continued to look neglected. However, here is talk that when the current turmoil is over attention could switch to the non-Footsie stocks.

After all, many blue chips are looking decidedly expensive and cash-rich institutions could feel obliged to gather in some of the valuation bargains now lurking in the lower reaches of the market.

Company results are again in short supply this week.

Tinklers, the last of the great conglomerates to remain content with its rag-bag lot, should demonstrate today that its bums to guns mixture is still working. Year's figures should emerge at £430m, up from £322.9m.

Diason, the electrical retailer, is another with year's results. The market looks for around £196m against £193.2m on Wednesday.

Marston Thompson & Ever-

shed, the Pedigree bitter brewer, is among the smaller companies in the reporting frame. A £2m year's gain to £29.5m seems likely.

Unfortunately for Marston, sales of traditional bitters are under renewed pressure and although it is ambitiously building its retail spread it has yet to achieve the power of Greene King, which paid £197.5m for the Magic Pub Co and last month rolled out a near-50 per cent profit increase.

The Pedigree group is striving to increase its presence in the more trendy areas of drink retailing. Last year it splashed out an astonishing £19.95m for the seven-strong Pitcher & Piano chain. It has increased its P&P spread but is unlikely to be reaping outstanding rewards from its retail excursion.

Others reporting year's profits include Badgers supermarket chain where £9.2m against £7.9m is likely and property group Helical Bar, marginally higher at £9.1m.

## Share spotlight

share price, pence

General Electric

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**Chris Godsmark**  
Business Correspondent

Lovell White Durrant said its calculations suggested National Power could have to repay £100m if the judge found in the pensioners' favour.

**Nigel Cope**  
City Correspondent

Members who have chosen to sell their entitlement will receive the average of the prices in the four auctions and the proceeds by 18 July.

**Photograph: Kapesh Lathigra**

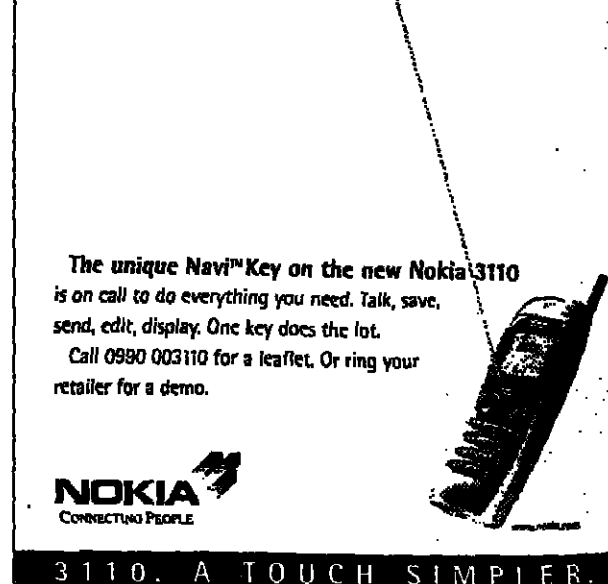
**Randeep Ramesh**  
Transport Correspondent

Privately many train company executives have been appalled by the provision. "It looked very strange that Railtrack more than doubled its poor weather provision. A cynic might point out it was trying to keep profits down to avoid confrontation with the Government," one company director said.

**Nic Cicutti**  
Personal Finance Editor

known at the time what was likely to happen, the rebate figures would have had to be different. The Government has changed the terms of the rebate. ***This is not fair.***"

**Chris Godsmark**



### 3110. A TOUCH SIMPLER

هكذا من الأصل



# Brown's stance tougher than markets realise



GAVYN DAVIES

All the lessons of the 1950s – 1970s, which demonstrated that fiscal fine-tuning was at best a difficult art, seem to have been forgotten in the stampede towards the conventional wisdom that higher taxes are essential to manage demand in 1997.

Gordon Brown's first Budget has been criticised in the City for failing to tighten the fiscal stance sufficiently, since most of the tax increases imposed – notably the windfall tax on the utilities and the dividend tax – will raise revenue without restraining demand. As far as it goes, this criticism is valid, since if we take the Budget package in isolation, the impact on short-run demand will be minimal.

But, as this column has been arguing for months, the Chancellor was never going to be able to control consumer demand this year through tax increases. This was never politically feasible, and probably not desirable. Nor did he ever suggest he was intending to undertake short-term fiscal interventionism. His objective was to rebalance the economy in the long term, not the day-after-tomorrow.

But where critics have really missed the point is that they have overlooked the fact there was already a substantial fiscal tightening built into the pre-Budget baseline arithmetic, taking effect each year over the medium term. When Gordon Brown agreed to stick to Ken Clarke's spending baseline for two years, he imposed on the system a fiscal tightening much bigger than anything anyone has recommended should take place in the Budget. Yet this is barely acknowledged in the public debate. In fact, because Mr Brown has left the spending totals unchanged in nominal terms while lifting inflation forecasts, the projected level of real spending next year is 1.5 per cent lower than Mr Clarke's baseline; the result is a tightening in the underlying fiscal stance of around 2 per cent of GDP in the next two years.

It is unclear whether those arguing for yet more fiscal agony are saying this planned tightening may not take place, or that it is insufficient, or that they have simply forgotten about it. In fact, the whole debate surrounding the Budget has, in many ways, been quite extraordinary – conducted in some kind of 1960s time warp, recalling the grand old days of Keynesian fine-tuning, with virtually no new frills attached. All the lessons of the 1950s – 1970s, which demonstrated that fiscal fine-tuning was at best a difficult art, seem to have been forgotten in the stampede towards the conventional wisdom that higher taxes are essential to manage demand in 1997.

It is worth restating why this conventional wisdom is not quite as self-evident as others believe. First, it is logically required, under the case for fiscal fine-tuning, that tax increases introduced today should be reversed later when consumers' expenditure has slowed down. Thus, those commentators who argue in favour of tax increases to slow the economy today should want tax cuts in a couple of years as the economy slows.

But temporary variations in taxation of this type do not change the household sector's estimates of its permanent income, and since consumption mainly depends on permanent rather than transitory income, such temporary tax changes may have little effect on the profile for aggregate demand. Empirical work that attempts to

measure directly the impact of variations in taxation on demand has found it surprisingly difficult to detect any consistent impact at all.

Second, there is the question of flexibility. Even if fiscal fine-tuning can affect the timing of demand, it is by no means clear tax policy can be changed sufficiently rapidly, or sufficiently often, to make it a suitable instrument for fine-tuning in this manner. Interest rates can be changed 12 times a year, or more if necessary. Taxes can be changed but once a year, and with long lead times at that.

Past experience has demonstrated quite clearly that tax changes tend to occur much too late to have the desired impact on demand. Studies in the 1950s and 1960s commonly showed that fiscal policy made the economic cycle worse, because tax changes typically took effect only after the economy had naturally started to move in the opposite

direction from that expected by the Treasury. There was clearly a risk that this would happen again, with the bulk of any effect of higher taxes on consumers expenditure coming next year, by which time the economy may already be slowing down.

Third, there is the question of scale. On Goldman Sachs' models, it would take at least a £9bn consumer tax increase to reduce the upward pressure on base rates by 1 percentage point. In the Budget run-up, no one seemed to be arguing for anything remotely on this scale. In fact, there was a severe risk that small tax increases on the consumer would be said to obviate the need for any further base rate rises, leaving the overall policy tightening insufficient to slow demand.

For example, the CBI has argued for £2bn tax increases in the Budget, claiming that this should replace base rate rises. But a £2bn increase in income tax would reduce the upward pressure on base rates by only 0.25 per cent. Very few, if any, of the enthusiasts for consumer tax increases have been honest enough to ask for increases of a scale sufficient to make much difference to the interest rate path.

It is easy, in putting these arguments, to be accused of not caring about the overvaluation of the exchange rate, or about the temporary squeeze on exporters which this involves.

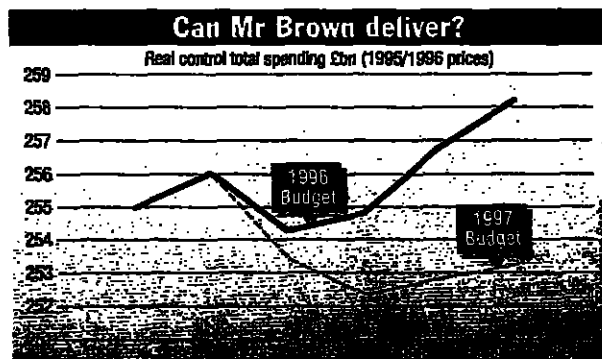
This accusation is simply absurd. Of course, it would be far better to avoid periods of exchange rate

overvaluation if this were possible, and the point should be freely acknowledged. However, the problem inherited by the new Government is one of excess consumers' expenditure, generated by a period of overly lax monetary policy, and by the building society windfalls that probably could have been prevented by the previous chancellor, but were not. It so happens the problem has been made worse by the opposite set of circumstances in Germany – inadequate domestic demand, and cyclical downward pressure on interest rates.

In extricating the economy from this problem, it has always seemed likely that monetary policy would have to be the prime instrument of stabilisation since, for the reasons outlined above, fiscal policy would not be able to meet the challenge. The rise in sterling is an unwelcome consequence of the necessary monetary tightening. But it is better to control inflation than to control the exchange rate, as Nigel Lawson discovered in 1988.

Having failed in their quest for consumer tax increases in the Budget, the City critics have turned their attention to base rates, with several saying a half-point rise is likely this week. But what they may be overlooking is the extent of the deflationary drag which the exchange rate is now imparting on the economy.

If sterling stays at present levels, Goldman Sachs reckon this drag will be worth 2.3 per cent of GDP by the end of next year – much bigger than anything that could conceivably have been done in the Budget. Is this not enough to be going on with?



## Windfalls and property demand provide shot in arm for DIY sales

Nigel Cope  
City Correspondent

Do-it-yourself retailers have enjoyed their best year since the 1980s housing boom, according to a new report by retail consultants Verdict Research. The report predicts that the DIY market will grow even stronger over the next two years, boosted by building society windfalls and a buoyant housing market.

Verdict says that the value of spending on DIY last year reached its highest level since 1988.

It adds that the DIY market was worth £10.9bn in 1996 and that growth outstripped all retail sales trends.

The report states: "The upturn in consumer spending

and the housing market has made the outlook for the remainder of 1997 and into 1998 far better than at any other time this decade."

Verdict's Clive Vaughan added: "We think a lot of the windfall gains will be spent on enhancing properties, building extensions and so on. The

whole building trade should benefit."

However, the report warns that the longer-term outlook is less certain due to rising interest rates and the possible demise of Miras, which was cut in the Chancellor's Budget last week. The report also warns of a potential north-south split as the

southern housing market continues to boom.

The report backs up bullish sales trends announced recently by leading DIY groups such as B&Q. At the end of May B&Q said like-for-like sales in the 13 weeks to 3 May were 14.4 per cent ahead of the same period last year.

Verdict says that with the DIY market plagued by overcapacity these sectors would continue to polarise, with the large DIY chains expanding at the expense of lesser names and smaller independents.

The report shows that last year B&Q increased its share of the DIY market from 15.8 to 15.8 per cent, while Sainsbury's Homebase and Wickes also grew their share. Rivals with weaker brands, such as Do It All and F&S, saw their market share fall.

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
B&Q	14.6	15.0	14.9	15.0	15.8
Homebase	3.3	3.6	3.9	4.2	4.5
Wickes	9.6	9.0	8.1	6.7	5.9
Do It All	2.8	3.0	3.8	4.5	4.8
Great Mills	5.6	5.1	4.5	4.0	3.7
AG Stanley	2.7	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.7
Focus	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.3
Total	0.6	0.8	1.2	1.2	1.2
	40.7	40.7	40.6	39.6	39.8

Source: Verdict on DIY Retailers 1997

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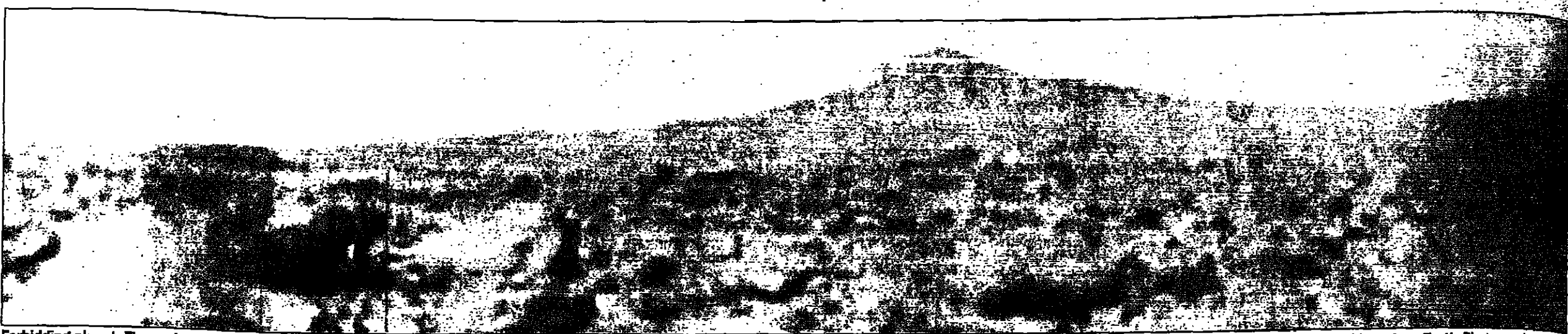
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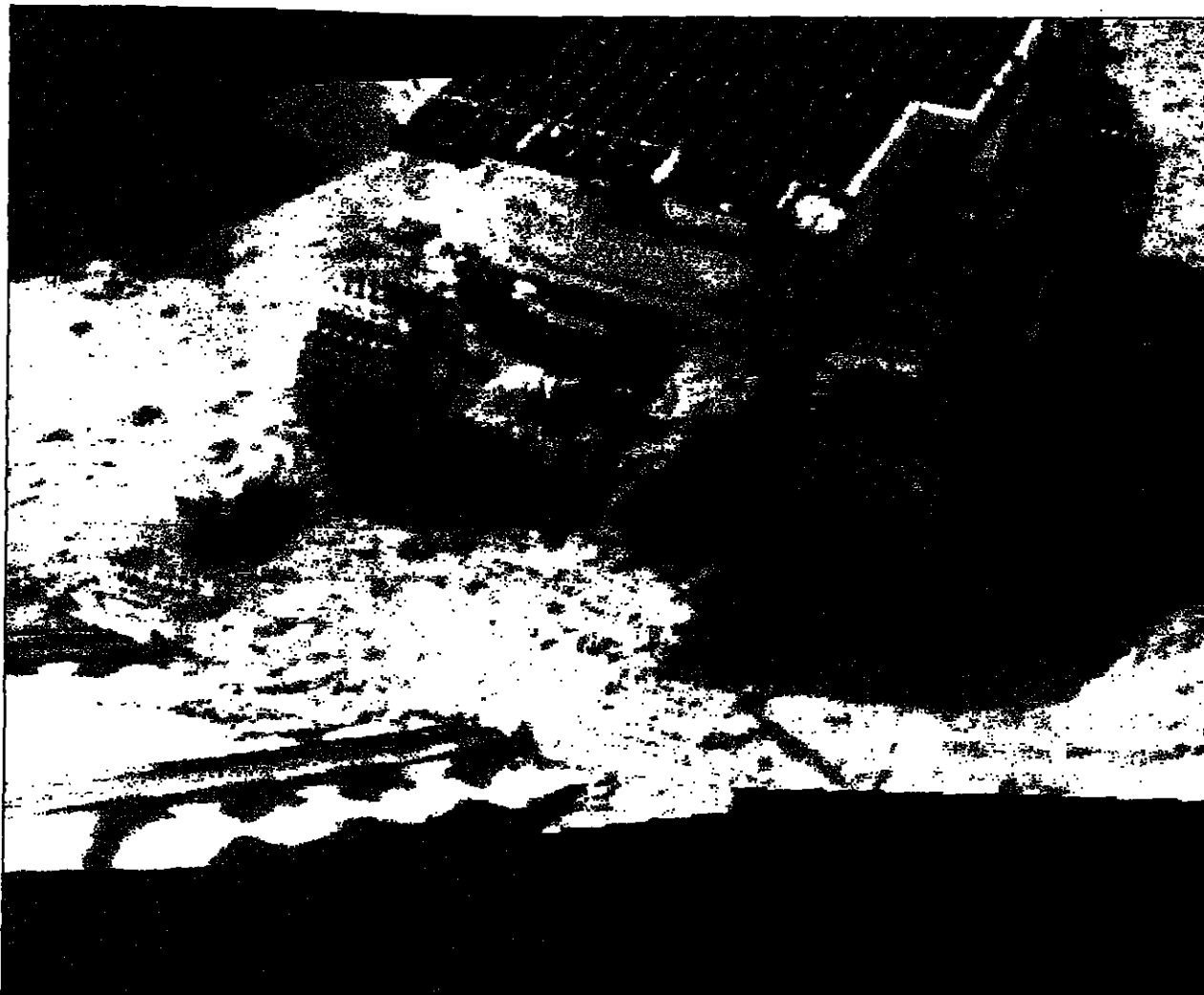
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## news



Forbidding planet: The rock-strewn Martian landscape (above) as photographed by Sojourner, the rover vehicle seen below driving off the Pathfinder rocket ramp on to the surface of Mars, controlled by a 'driver' on Earth. Photographs: Nasa

## A small roll for rover, a giant leap for mankind



Lander vehicle takes high-quality pictures which are relayed back to Earth along with data from rover

Two cameras on front of rover give 3-D pictures of rocks in path as it moves along at 0.02 mph

At night Sojourner and lander shut down to conserve power; in daylight recharge batteries from the sun

Titanium-wheeled rover, guided by remote control from Earth, moves over terrain and examines rocks using built-in X-ray "sniffer" expected to survive 7 days in temperatures of -88°C to 0°C

It might not seem that important: at 6.46 BST yesterday morning, an electric-powered car about the size of a microwave oven was halfway down a ramp; by 6.59 it was off it. But the cheers and roars from the 70 scientists greeting the news that "the rover is on the surface of Mars" were entirely in keeping with the occasion.

For this could be the future of successful, affordable space exploration. It could be the prototype of how we search for life in the solar system.

The vehicle, called Sojourner, has already left its mark: a track from its six studded titanium wheels. Never before has a vehicle been driven on another planet. "Six wheels on the ground," reported flight director Chris Salvo as the signal came in. The response was ecstatic.

An hour after the vehicle moved off the ramp, the sun went down, and Sojourner was left parked overnight on the Martian soil. Guided by lasers, and feeding back stereoscopic pictures to a "driver" at mission control at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California, it was waiting yesterday for the sun to rise. The Martian day is just 34 minutes

As tiny titanium wheels churn the Martian soil, their tracks show space explorers the way to go. **Charles Arthur reports**

longer than Earth's, and is presently synchronised roughly with time on the west coast of the United States.

Scientists were preparing to explore the area around the Pathfinder rocket, using the rover's ability to chemically "sniff" rocks with its X-ray spectrometer, and to examine the solidity of the soil. Such examinations will go on for at least

a week while the lander takes high-resolution photographs.

Even so, after the first two nights, few of the 700 fingernails at JPL mission control will have survived unscathed. First there was the nerve-racking landing on Friday night, plummeting to the surface at 600mph. Then there was the three-hour wait to see if the lander had been damaged.

It turned out to be fine. But

getting the rover off the lander proved troublesome. By Saturday morning, the airbags which helped the lander survive impact had not deflated. That was overcome by lifting the "petals" of the lander up and down.

Then, more seriously, the computers on the rover and on the lander refused to talk to each other. Without that link, the solar-powered Sojourner could not be controlled from Earth, though it could have performed a two-day pre-programmed sequence of investigations.

On Sunday night, after much anguish, the problem was solved, as are so many terrestrial computer problems, by turning the misbehaving components off and then on again. The controllers were relieved. "We feel like we've been invited back to the party," said rover operator Matt Wallace.

Scientists will use the rover's first few days on Mars to learn how to handle the vehicle. There is a time delay of almost 11 minutes before the signal reaches the driver on Earth from the vehicle on Mars. So even though it moves at only 0.02 mph, about half an inch per second, the delay means that in the time it takes to see an event and to react to

it, the rover will travel more than 53 feet. Thus the experience for the driver will be rather like trying to pick sites of interest while zipping along a motorway.

The significance of the Sojourner's little trundle lies in the possibilities it opens. Pathfind-

er is the first of a series of low-cost missions planned by the US space agency Nasa. With a budget of only \$266m (£166m), it is a far cheaper method of exploration than putting people—who need food, water and air—into rockets. "This really strengthens

the case for unmanned missions," said Sir Martin Rees, Astronomer Royal of Britain.

But even the Martian adventure may pale beside planned expeditions to take samples from passing comets, and even to dig beneath the surface of Europa,

an icy moon of Jupiter, to look for signs of vestigial life.

As increasingly "intelligent" systems are designed, machines will be able to do the searching. Providing, of course, that they are able to reboot themselves in times of trouble.

### Repair success for Mir crew

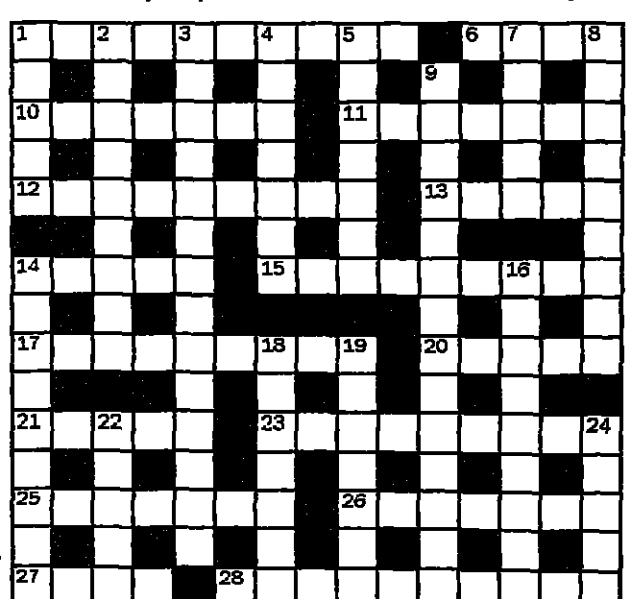
Moscow (Reuters) — The Russian-United States crew aboard the crippled Mir station had some good news yesterday, after the space collision on 25 June which led to the greatest danger to the station in its 11-year history.

A mission control expert said that Mir's navigation problem had been fixed and its gyroscopes — which keep solar panels lined up with the Sun to gain maximum power — were now working. An official said later that the crew had spent the day gathering strength for this morning's docking of a supply ship which is bringing equipment to help them fix the station's damaged power supply.

### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3344, Monday 7 July

By Fortia



- ACROSS**
- I shouldn't worry about American appearing (10)
  - Impressive part of the picture (4)
  - Fold over tenor's old jacket (7)
  - Foreign name for single flowering plant (7)
  - Artist has ample but starts off being greedy (9)
  - Make sense of total (3,2)
  - Scored all at once (5)
  - Team leader drove play bus (9)
  - Certainty of producing eight runs (4,5)
  - Range includes new bowl (5)
  - Flash of talent, say (5)
  - Including alternative chapter on ghostbusters (9)

- DOWN**
- Regulate charge (5)
  - Instrumentalist getting the bird (9)
  - Hot spot? It's a promising situation (1,5,2,3,3)
  - Tried moving round in the Northern US city (7)
  - Port stains initially washed out with water (7)
  - Standing out for United director (5)
  - Pale actor's make-up for Shakespearean role (9)
  - Multi-cultural guy? (11,3)
  - Time to demand power for special unit (4,5)
  - Exaggerate ruler's position (9)
  - Lethargy apparent in irate outburst (7)
  - Dog fish (7)
  - Opera bearing the name of an Irish saint (5)
  - Audibly entranced by bouquet (5)

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